

Radical shift proposed for state schools

By Nicholas Wood and John Clare

A radical programme for educational change, including the removal of state schools from local authority control and the reintroduction of selective education, is proposed today in a manifesto put forward by an influential group of politicians and educationists.

extremists" had damaged children's education. Parents who relied on state schools had increasingly less assurance that moral standards, religious understanding and a respect for British institutions would be communicated to their children.



Dr Anderson: Backing the call for sweeping changes.

One of its most far-reaching plans in a package that goes far beyond anything so far envisaged by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, is to subject the Schools Inspectorate, the independent body that inspects schools and advises ministers on education theory and practice, to an external inquiry.

Tomorrow

Art and booty



Etruscan treasures command high prices - and now the Mafia has taken up archaeology. The Times looks into the twilight world of the Italian tomb-robbers

New Year's Day The Times will be the only quality newspaper to publish on New Year's Day. Don't miss our full coverage of news and sport - order your copy today.

Portfolio

The £8,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold weekly competition was won by Mrs Vera Brooks, of Hove, East Sussex, while the £4,000 daily prize was shared by three readers.

TIMES BUSINESS

Jaguar roars Jaguar Cars passed the 1,000 cars a week level in the last two weeks of the year and produced a record total of 41,437 cars in 1986

TIMES SPORT

Everton press Everton kept up the pressure on Arsenal at the top of the first division with some impressive football in a 5-1 win over Leicester City

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, etc. and page numbers.

New law to stop late bill payment

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is considering legislation to ease the burden on small firms hit by the late payment of bills by larger companies.

Ministers are sympathetic to a significant change in the law which would allow the courts to award interest on debts even if they are paid before legal proceedings start. It would severely discourage the tactic, employed throughout British business, of holding up the payment of bills until the last possible moment, and is backed by the Confederation of British Industry.

But in a sharp internal Conservative Party dispute, ministers are vigorously opposing a backbench campaign, supported by MPs in other parties, to introduce a statutory right of interest on the late payment of debts, obliging courts to grant interest in all debt cases coming before them.

The issue is causing deep divisions among Conservative MPs but Mr David Trippier, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment, is warning that such a move could lead to up to 250,000 small businesses going to the wall because, he argues, the legislation would be used more strenuously by large companies against small ones.

So vehemently is Mr Trippier opposed to the change that he is writing to the 80 or so Conservative MPs who have backed a Commons move to introduce a statutory right of interest (and possibly to the rest of the parliamentary party) warning them of what he sees to be the dangers involved for small firms.

The backbench move is being led by Mr Richard Otway, Conservative MP for Nottingham North, and a parliamentary private secretary. He is backed by other



Gatting's triumph

Mike Gatting, England's cricket captain, is the unwilling recipient of a champagne soaking from his team-mate Chris Broad after England beat Australia by an innings and 14 runs in the fourth Test in Melbourne yesterday to retain the Ashes.

England, who took an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the five-Test series, won with more than two days to spare. After facing early resistance, they made inroads after lunch, and took the last six wickets for 41 runs.

John Woodcock, page 26

Owen predicts coalition after spring election

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen yesterday intensified speculation about an early general election when he predicted a coalition government and welcomed the prospect as the only means by which Britain's "moderate majority" could find its expression in government.

Forecasting a spring poll, the Social Democratic Party leader laid down the conditions which the Conservative and Labour parties would have to fulfil in the negotiations following the election of a hung parliament as the price for Alliance co-operation.

He made plain that the "sensible moderate majority" would accept neither the Labour Party's unilateralist defence policy nor the Government's readiness to contemplate reducing the standard rate of tax and refusing to integrate the tax and benefit system when there were three million people unemployed.

And in a new year message to his party, he said that Labour in its efforts to get an agreed defence policy has chosen "the unity of the graveyard".

His remarks added to the post-Christmas bout of election fever induced by the disclosure that the Conservative Party has brought forward its biggest direct mailing operation ever - with about eight million letters going out from the party chairman, Mr Norman Tebbit, over the next three months - in case the Prime Minister responds to its sharp rise in the polls by going for an early contest in May or June, and the confirmation

that Mr Tebbit himself is pressing for a spring poll. But they were speedily rejected by the Labour Party, whose campaign co-ordinator, Mr Bryan Gould, accused Dr Owen of clutching at straws. He said that the nine upturn the voters could not choose was coalition, which could only be imposed after a deal cobbled together by the politicians.

In her new year message on Wednesday, Mrs Thatcher will studiously avoid any hints about an early or late election. But its tone will be buoyant and, in some senses, electioneering with another blast at Labour's defence policy.

While they are suffering an expected loss of support through the deliberately early relaunch of the non-nuclear policy, party sources have been boosted by unpublished opinion poll evidence showing that the party's commitments to Nato, to maintain defence spending, and to spend more on the army, navy and air force as a result of the savings gained from the cancellation of the Trident submarine programme have registered with the electorate in a way they did not in 1983.

Party sources believe that Labour has successfully opened up the argument about whether Britain should remain a nuclear weapons power.

Continued on page 16, col 6

Success for drink-drive campaigns

Police breath-test figures show that most British motorists have heeded the warnings about drinking and driving this Christmas, but the trend has been reversed in some regions.

One of the toughest campaigns has been mounted in Nottinghamshire, where 105 drivers out of 3,584 breathalysed in the last eight days have been arrested for being above the legal limit. Supt Roger Storey, head of the county's traffic division, said: "It does appear that this year the vast majority of people have taken heed of our message."

In Staffordshire, however, 29 motorists had been arrested for alleged drink-driving up to yesterday, compared with a total of 33 for the entire holiday period last year. In the Merseyside police area, 97 motorists failed the breathalyser test in the nine days to yesterday, compared with 78 for the period until January 1 1986.

During the same period, ten people have been killed in road accidents in the area. In Derbyshire, during the nine days to yesterday, 47 breath tests proved positive, as against 36 last year. North Wales police carried out 71 positive breath tests in the nine days to yesterday, compared with 142 arrests last year.

Norfolk police also reported a reduction in the number of positive breath tests. In the Strathclyde region of Scotland, which includes Glasgow, a police spokesman said: "There is evidence that the message is reaching the public". From December 23 until Boxing Day, Strathclyde police recorded 46 positive breath tests, compared with 59 last year.

Research teams at Nottingham University, the body which has often conducted questionnaires among the public and industry on behalf of the Mint, has already convinced officials at the Treasury that our coins are far too heavy.

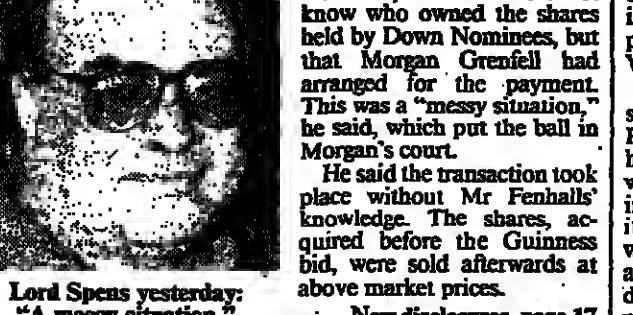
The Treasury also agrees that some of the lower value bronze coins will soon cost

New evidence in Guinness inquiry

By Colin Narbrough, Financial Correspondent

The inquiry into share dealings in connection with Guinness's £2.7 billion takeover of the whisky-maker Distillers last April has sent a fresh shock wave through the City following revelations that the merchant banker Henry Ansbacher was also involved.

At the core of the latest disclosure is the mystery as to who owned 2.15 million shares bought by Ansbacher's clients through its subsidiary, Down Nominees. A wider issue is the arrangement surrounding the placing of 13



Lord Spens yesterday: "A messy situation."

million Guinness shares after the bid at above market prices. Lord Spens, Ansbacher's managing director, told The Times yesterday that the bank's chief executive, Mr Richard Fenbells, had informed the DTI shortly after the Guinness investigation was announced of the transaction involving Down Nominees.

Both Lord Spens and Mr Fenbells have been questioned under oath by the inspectors, but the inspectors had not been to the bank. Morgan Grenfell was unable to confirm the Ansbacher account.

Lord Spens said he did not know who owned the shares held by Down Nominees, but that Morgan Grenfell had arranged for the payment. This was a "messy situation," he said, which put the ball in Morgan's court.

He said the transaction took place without Mr Fenbells' knowledge. The shares, acquired before the Guinness bid, were sold afterwards at above market prices.

New disclosures, page 17

Reagan remains hopeful

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan presented an optimistic view of the past year in his weekly radio address on Saturday, saying "relations between the United States and the Soviet Union advanced". In the only note of gloom he said the Iran crisis was a "disappointment".

Mr Reagan, who began a week's holiday on Saturday said that "1986 has been a good year for the cause of human freedom and for the cause of world peace".

In the year ahead both the US and the Soviet Union would be in a good position to build on what had been accomplished.

Much of the address was devoted to Afghanistan.

MOSCOW: Pravda reported yesterday that it was more optimistic than at the start of the year about the prospects for world peace despite what it alleged were continuing attempts by Washington to block disarmament proposals (Christopher Walker writes).

It said that the Iceland summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev had demonstrated that there were real prospects of avoiding a nuclear catastrophe. But it added: "1986 was the year where Washington obstructed any step aimed at nuclear disarmament, no matter who made the initiative."

Ray of hope, page 6

Sakharov criticizes Soviet linkage on 'Star Wars'

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In an outspoken interview, Dr Andrei Sakharov, Russia's leading dissident, has demonstrated the wide limits of his freedom by attacking the byproduct of the Kremlin's disarmament programme, the linking of all proposals in a single package dependent on the US limiting "Star Wars" research to the laboratory.

The insistence of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, on linkage in the wake of the collapse of the Reykjavik summit has already been criticized by Western governments anxious to see a separate deal on reducing medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Dr Sakharov, the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was speaking about the current state of East-West disarmament negotiations for

the first time since his arrival in Moscow last Tuesday after nearly seven years of exile in the closed city of Gorky.

"I think it is ungrounded to demand that the American side stop development of the

new technology in the military field, and to stipulate this as a condition of all other arms control agreements is completely illegal," he said.

"The research has started, and not only in the United States; we may infer that in this country something is being done. We may infer this from general knowledge, and it is simply unrealistic to stop the research that has already started. Therefore, I am against the principle of the package."

Speaking in his small Moscow flat, the Nobel peace laureate said that strategically, SDI will not be effective because the Soviet Union, if SDI is created, will find a means at every stage of its creation to make this defence ineffective, he explained.

"On each new variant of SDI - and there will definitely be many of them, more and more complicated - means to make it ineffective will easily be found."

Continued on page 16, col 3

Skiers carve path to French Alps

Thousands of Britons hoping to travel by rail to skiing holidays in France are likely to find their journeys disrupted.

While three boat trains ran from the Channel ports to Paris yesterday, the northern French rail network was still seriously affected by a strike.

A spokesman for SNCF, the French railways, said in London: "There should be little difficulty experienced by people getting to Paris. A subsidiary of ours is running a comprehensive coach service

between the French Channel ports and Paris.

"Once they arrive in Paris people should find that about 25 per cent, perhaps a third, of trains to the Alps areas are running normally. The TGV (high speed) train service from Paris to Grenoble, Annecy and Chambéry in France, and Geneva and Lausanne in Switzerland are operating to day reasonably well," he said.

However, the spokesman advised people wanting to travel to the Swiss Alps to cross

Check on missing girl link

The missing teenager Samantha Etridge may be the captive of the same tall man who abducted another girl six days ago, police suspect.

But Det Supt Fergus Corcoran, who is heading the inquiry into Samantha's disappearance, said yesterday that despite links between the cases of Samantha and Catherine Ainger, he cannot be sure the same man is responsible.

Police know who held Catherine captive for several days shortly before Christmas, but are not releasing his name.

One link is a suggestion that the man had come from the Wood Green area of north London - the suburb where Catherine lives and 10 miles from Samantha's home in Chesnut, Hertfordshire.

Catherine knew her abductor, who was described as about 6ft 3in tall and weighing 15-16 stone. The man who took Samantha is described as 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in tall

Photograph, page 2

Advertisement for Famous Grouse Scotch Whisky, featuring an image of a grouse and a glass of whisky.

Quality in an age of change

Teacher banned over IRA charge

A schoolteacher who denies recruiting her pupils into the junior wing of the IRA has been banned from teaching by the Northern Ireland education authorities.

RUC headquarters confirmed yesterday that detectives were still "investigating the circumstances" into how one of her former pupils was recruited into the terrorist organization.

The ban on Miss Kathleen Gleeson, aged 26, from Transnaway Estate, Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh, means that she cannot be employed by any school in Ulster unless she speaks successfully within two weeks. The Department of Education in Belfast is informing its counterparts in London, to have the ban extended to schools in England and Wales.

This month Miss Gleeson, a known Sinn Fein activist, said: "I am innocent of these allegations".

Parkland preserved

The site of what is believed to be England's second-oldest parliament has been presented to the Open Spaces Society to be preserved for the public.

The 15 acres of ancient parkland known as Parliament Piece at Kenilworth, Warwickshire, is the alleged site of Henry III's parliament, called to placate warring barons in 1266. The donor is Miss Helen Martin of The Spring, Kenilworth.

The society plans to create a new common by granting common rights of estovers (wood gathering).

Detectors investigating the murder of Mr Donald Swain, a teacher, appealed yesterday for anyone with information to come forward. Mr Swain, aged 48, was clubbed to death early on Christmas morning.

He was "picked out at random" police say, as he walked back to his home in Hazelhurst Road, Heaton, Bradford, West Yorkshire, after drinks with friends.

Yesterday his widow, Brenda, aged 51, was being comforted by relatives and her children, Martin, aged 15, and Helen, aged 13.

Carriage for Duchess

The Duchess of York is to learn carriage driving at the £18-an-hour centre run by the Duke of Edinburgh at Sandringham.

The Duke is delighted that the Duchess has decided she wants to drive a carriage and four. Four of the Queen's horses, including Piper, aged 12, are available for the Duchess who has already visited the centre to express her interest.

The carriage driving centre is run as a commercial business, charging £150 a week. It is managed by Mr David Sammers, the Duke's of Edinburgh's coachman and trainer.

High life for Duke

The Duke of Edinburgh spent more than an hour clambering around the rotten roof timbers at Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire yesterday.

It was his first visit to the cathedral since he became the patron of a £4 million appeal fund to restore the building and reverse damage caused by the elements and death watch beetle.

The Duke was taken 150 ft up into the nave roof, where £1.2 million worth of repair work on decaying timbers is due to begin next month.



Champagne cure

Mrs Davina Thompson, who was given a new heart, lungs and liver this month, celebrated with a glass of champagne when she was allowed out of the intensive care unit at Papworth hospital, near Cambridge, for the first time since the operation on December 17.

Mrs Thompson, aged 35, a miner's wife, joined a small group of other patients in an ordinary ward for a traditional Sunday lunch. She was given the triple transplant in a seven-hour operation at Papworth after being seriously ill for more than two years.

Household Survey

Fewer over-55s stay in jobs

A sharp decline in the number of men aged over 55 still in employment is disclosed in the *General Household Survey* (1972-84).

The trend towards earlier retirement shows that by 1984 less than three-quarters of men aged 55 to 59 were still working and only half of those aged 60 to 64 had a job. The proportion of men over state retirement age still at work was also halved during the survey period.

A fall in employment in young men aged 16 to 17 could be explained largely by the growing number taking part in the Youth Opportunities Programme or, more recently, in the Youth Training Scheme, the survey said.

Between 1983 and 1984 the activity rate for that group rose by 12 per cent, probably because of changes in the way YTS and YOP trainees were classified.

There was more unemployment among all men under state retirement age. In 1973 only 3 per cent of men aged 16 to 64 were without work but by 1984 that proportion had risen to 10 per cent. Among men under the age of 25, the proportion unemployed fell from 25 per cent in 1983 to 18 per cent the following year, again because of the new YTS and YOP classifications.

Changes in the regulations for signing on at unemployment benefit offices for men aged 60 to 64 led to a 4 per cent fall in the official number of that group who were without work. They were no longer required to sign on to claim national insurance credits or supplementary benefit.

The survey said that the 160,000 men affected were more likely to describe themselves as seeking work while they signed on as unemployed and available for work than when that condition for receiving benefit had been removed.

The number of working women also tended to fall during the study period, particularly among the young and those over retirement age. The proportion of single women of working age who were unemployed increased from 3 per cent to 12 per cent between 1973-83 and the proportion who were working dropped from 72 per cent to 55 per cent.

The survey showed that unlike the record for men and single women the number of working wives tended to rise during the early 1970s. The increase halted in 1979 and stabilized for married women under retirement age. In both one-parent and two-parent families mothers were more likely to work if the youngest dependent child was aged five or over.

Call for 10-year freeze on African debt

The present level of debt, which totals about \$388 billion, swallows up a quarter of the developing world's earnings. In some cases, the interest repayments alone have exceeded the total national income in many years.

The strategy seeks to temper the "adjustment policies" adopted by many of the nations during the recession. Stagnating trade, falling commodity prices, declining aid, mounting debt repayments, a shift from soft to hard loans and a drop in private lending (the main source of external development finance in the booming seventies) have stalled economic develop-

ment for the past seven years. Inevitably adjustment policies, which are often a condition of continuing support from the International Monetary Fund, include cuts in food subsidies.

Those and other deflationary policies, Unicef argues, strike hardest at those who have least scope for making economies: the children of the poor whose average incomes have already dropped by more than 15 per cent in recent years.

"Malnutrition and low birth-weight are on the increase in Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Malaysia, Uruguay and in many African nations."

Acknowledging the need to lay the foundations for sustained economic growth but calling for "adjustment with a human face", Dr Richard Jolly, Unicef's deputy director and the former head of the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University, argues that the existing approach embodies "an economic error of the most fundamental sort".

The report concludes: "No adjustment policy is acceptable which allows children to be sacrificed for the sake of financial stability."

Leading article, page 13

Tories back grant reform as price rises hit students

A Conservative-controlled select committee will embarrass the Government next month when it calls not only for a substantial increase in student grants, but also, it seems likely, for the abolition of parental contributions to students over the age of 21.

The second proposal would cost the Government an estimated £80 million a year, but it would eradicate some of the serious problems encountered by the education select committee during its three-month investigation into grant levels.

MPs were repeatedly told that the problem of inadequate grants was greatly exacerbated by the fact that more than 40 per cent of parents failed to pay their contributions either in part or at all. They were concerned at the sharp increase in the number of parents expected to make contributions over recent years and at the heavy burden on middle-income families which were expected to pay the full £1,382.

The upshot, they fear, is that potential students, who by any other definition are independent of their parents after the age of 21, are being deterred from higher education or being made to suffer inordinately.

Students, university administrators, teachers and local authorities all argued that the present student grant was far too low and MPs heard much anecdotal evidence of increasing demands on college hardship funds, of students being unable to afford even basic equipment and books, of lowering academic standards and even of malnutrition.

In the final session of evidence, officials from the Department of Education admitted that the Government "would not now maintain the maintenance element of the mandatory award is sufficient to meet all the essential expenditure of the average student".

The committee's report, due in mid-January, will let the facts speak for themselves and will not recommend figures, but it will make clear that the student grant must be adequate to meet basic needs and must be divorced from political considerations.

It will almost certainly call for the creation of a special student index possibly taking account of regional differences, by which to judge how much the grant should be increased each year. MPs were told that the real value of the student grant had dropped by about 20 per cent in real terms since 1979, although the cost of the two most basic items of student expenditure, board and lodging and books, had increased far faster than inflation.

The committee will also insist that the Department of Education carries out its own research into student needs. MPs were astonished to hear that it relies on the inflation rate and evidence from the National Union of Students and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in order to set the annual grant.

The report will also call on the Government to pay a much greater percentage of students' travel costs.

Finally, the report is likely to call for simplification of what one university vice-chancellor described as the "incredibly complicated" grant application forms that students and parents are expected to complete. Lower income and uneducated families were simply intimidated by it and the result was an "enormous untapped reservoir" of talent being wasted.



Mr Gordon Ettridge and his wife Carole wait at home in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, hoping for a call from their daughter, Samantha, who has been missing since Christmas Eve. They said: "We would drive to the ends of nowhere to collect her." (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Late settling of bills

creditors to sue for interest on the late payment of a debt if they have started proceedings before the sum is paid.

Mr Trippier told *The Times* last night that he was sympathetic to allowing creditors to continue their quest for interest in the courts even if the debt was paid at the last moment.

"At the moment if the principal sum outstanding is settled before the court proceedings there cannot be an award of interest. But if a small businessman has gone to the lengths of taking legal action against a larger firm he has probably in his mind written off the possibility of ever getting any further business from that company. If so he might as well go the whole hog and obtain the interest that he could claim is due. I accept that and I am sympathetic to it."

"But as for a wholesale change which would make the granting of interest compulsory I am dead against it. It would be madness and be damaging to everything that I and many others have been trying to do for the small firms."

Tories argue on law change

Continued from page 1

senior party figures, including Mr Michael Grylls, chairman of the backbench industry committee, Mr Ottaway wants the courts to award interest calculated on a daily basis and payable 30 days after notice in writing has been given of the intention to claim interest on a debt.

The decision to exercise the right would be discretionary. If the injured party felt he would damage his relationship with the other party he would be under no obligation to claim interest.

Mr Trippier said yesterday the plan had big pitfalls. The big companies had "armies" of lawyers who could be employed to root out late-payers and take them to court.

"Before I studied the situation in detail I was instinctively in favour of legislation in this area, but I have been convinced by the many small business lobby groups who have said 'Be careful,' " he said.

Mr Ottaway, whose Bill to introduce a legally enforceable right to interest was blocked by the Government in the last session of Parliament and who has since introduced another, doubted whether the large companies would use such legislation more than the smaller.

"We are trying to speed up the payment of debts for all," he said. But he strongly welcomed the possible legislative change to help the small firms thwarted in their claim for interest by a late move to settle the principal sum owed.

Mr Trippier and Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Employment, will consider proposing to the Cabinet a change to the 1982 Administration of Justice Act which only allows

Labour believes it has a safe seat

Local residents in Greenwich are surprised to see the forthcoming by-election in their parliamentary constituency in the newspapers as a crucial contest in a highly marginal seat. To them the seat has always been, and remains, safe Labour.

The fact that at the last general election the Labour MP, Mr Guy Barnett, who died on Christmas Eve, had a majority of only 1,211 is dismissed by the man in Greenwich High Street as a freakish aberration. It was, several of them maintained sturdily yesterday, largely explained by an unexpectedly strong showing by Mr Tim Ford, the candidate for the Social Democratic Party.

SDP fortunes have waned somewhat since, and Mr Ford stood down some months ago. His successor, Mrs Rosie Barnes, a market research consultant, was selected just a fortnight ago.

The Conservatives have changed candidates too, and

SDP fortunes are on the wane

their new man, Mr John Antcliffe, is one of the 12 Tories on Greenwich council. He represents Blackheath ward, which is just outside the parliamentary constituency, and is typical of the young upwardly-mobile urban professionals who have lately been arriving in the area, and who are not universally well-liked by longer-established residents.

It is accepted that Greenwich Labour party, which has been dominated by the hard left since the late 1970s, will choose a fairly extreme left candidate to follow Mr Barnett, a moderate.

The likely runners include Mrs Deirdre Wood, who was one of Greenwich's GLC councillors and is still its Ilea representative. As chairman of Ilea's staff committee she commands a powerful patronage but her selection would be "worth several hundred votes to the SDP" according to a middle-class Greenwich resident of 20 years' standing.

Other likely contenders are Mr Ted Knight, the former leader of the hard-left Lambeth council; Mr Peter Williams, an official of the National Union of Public Employees, who is a leading light in the Bennite Campaign for Labour Party Democracy; Miss Valerie Wise, former head of the GLC's militant women's unit and daughter of Mrs Audrey Wise, the former far-left Labour MP whom Mr Cartwright managed, rather surprisingly, to keep out of Woolwich at the last general election, and Mrs Frances Morrell, the leader of Ilea and a former aide to Mr Tony Benn.

There is, though, one strong and popular local contender who could prove even more embarrassing to the Labour leadership than any of the better-known names mentioned so far. He is Mr Eddie McParland, a vociferous and undeniably capable Greenwich councillor who has in the past made no secret of his sympathy for the Militant Tendency and its supporters.

Mr McParland was a close runner-up when the leader of Greenwich council, Mr John

Small companies wait 70 days for payments

Despite a new code of practice, small businesses are still having to wait about 70 days for large companies to pay their bills, the Forum for Private Business says.

Mr Stan Mendham, director of the forum, a pressure group representing small businesses, said: "Our own earlier survey put the delay at 75 days. Later evidence indicates that there has been virtually no improvement since the code of practice last May."

The forum has nearly completed an assessment on payments which will include a survey in which its members identify the slowest payers.

The results are still coming in but Mr Mendham believes that slow payment largely involves big companies.

"They can get away with it because they can most easily shrug off any threat by a supplier not to send more goods until the bills have been paid," he said.

There has been a long campaign by many small business pressure groups to secure earlier payments of bills and rising concern at the number of small businesses being squeezed out of business.

The problem is likely to get worse because a new regime of prompter VAT payment puts additional pressure on the cash and credit resources of small businesses, Mr Mendham says.

"The Government with VAT has legislated to get bills paid on time. It is time there was legislation to force companies which are late payers of bills to pay interest as in many other countries," he said.

The code of practice, formulated by Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Employment, was backed by the Confederation of British Industry, the Institute of Directors, the Institute of Purchasing and Supply and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

Far left in control of local council

Austin-Walker, was chosen to succeed Mrs Wise (who has now found herself a safe Labour nomination in Preston) as Labour's challenger to Mr Cartwright in Woolwich. Mr McParland, according to local accounts, finished ahead of Mr Williams in that selection race, and his name was mentioned by several declared Greenwich Labour supporters yesterday as the candidate they would most like to see selected. Perhaps not surprisingly he was named by several confessed SDP supporters too.

With 45 seats the Labour group on Greenwich council has a majority of 27 over all other parties, and although the far left has been firmly in control since 1979 the council has never reached such well-publicized heights of allegedly "loony" leftism as Islington, Brent or Haringey.

There has been no suggestion of any unconstitutional proceedings in the local Labour party, and it is highly unlikely that they will now give the national leadership an excuse to impose a moderate candidate, as happened at Knowlsey North. Whoever, and however extreme, is Greenwich Labour party's choice as candidate, that is the person who must be rated the most likely to become the constituency's next MP.

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Docklands project threatened by loss of grant

Dockland Development Corporation.

In the past year the corporation gave Mudchute £62,000 out of Little Egg. The project received another £15,000 from Tower Hamlets and £8,000 from the Inner London Education Authority.

One reason given by the corporation for withdrawing its grant is that it "will not be around itself for ever and a day". It has suggested that Mudchute should become self-funding.

The farm takes its name from the unusual way in which it was created. The area is an artificially made bank of soil created in the last century, when millions of tons of silt were dredged in the construction of the great Millwall Docks. Gradually the sediment dried out, leaving an undulating wilderness.

The area was earmarked officially as "green space" less than 15 years ago, when the Docklands Strategic Plan was conceived to revive the blighted area of east London.

The transformation to a combination of community park, field studies centre, educational small holding and riding school began with an idea in 1974 by Kate Heron, the architect and landscape specialist.

The Mudchute was leased two years later to the Association of Island Communities to make a park, including a farm and allotments and recreational space.

A new organization was formed called the Mudchute Farm and Park Association. It involved local people through schools and summer play schemes, summer festivals, an annual agricultural show (which attracted more than 10,000 people this year), a pony club, and a youth club which organizes sailing, camping, and climbing weekends.

In the centre of the parkland created from the surplus soil there is an amphitheatre of grassland for summer concerts.

Over the past decade the changing face of Mudchute and its ecology have also been charted by groups such as the London Wildlife Trust, the Flora and Fauna Society and the Ecological Parks Trust.

One scheme has shown the importance of understanding the industrial history of an area if it is going to be transformed for other recreational uses. An investigation this autumn into why fruit trees withered disclosed that spoil containing lead must have been buried on the site many years ago.

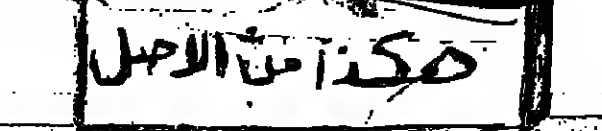
Studies by schools and professional groups have shown that the clay areas are quite fertile, supporting thick growth of large plants: horseradish, nettles, docks, comfrey and tall grasses.

On the less fertile banks, plant growth is thinner but more varied.

The farm houses a breeding flock of 60 sheep, including Jacobs and other unusual types. There are two cows, six goats, six sows with litters, eight calves and a variety of chickens and ducks. An apiary contains 30 hives.

There are three fox sets, two heron families and small mammals, including voles.

The corporation made one proposal for the sale of land for development. It said: "We do not want to buy it. But the idea is that the sale could raise £3 million to £4 million which could be put in trust, and Mudchute could live on the interest."



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RAF crewmen defy blizzards to rescue cliff plunge climber

A helicopter crew of four risked death in a blinding snowstorm to reach a climber badly injured in a 700ft fall.

Driving snow, low cloud and darkness meant that visibility was so bad the crew had to wear special night vision goggles to see what they were doing.

The crew, in a Sea King helicopter, made three attempts to reach the man after manoeuvring more than two miles around a Lake District cove to reach the spot.

On the third attempt, the helicopter crew managed to winch him on board and take him to Newcastle General Hospital.

The drama happened yesterday after a party of seven climbers staying at a youth hostel in Grasmere had set off to go from Hartsop to High Street, above Haweswater.

Mr Gary Hogan, aged 29, a solicitor from Merseyside, slipped over a cliff edge. As the injured climber recovered from his ordeal, a member of the Patterdale mountain rescue team described how the drama began.

Apparently, this group had been sliding down a snow slope using their ice axes when Mr Hogan got out of control.

"He could not brake himself and shot over the edge and fell 700 feet. It's an absolute miracle that he even survived."

While the team lowered themselves down to where Mr Hogan lay injured, the Sea King, from RAF Boulmer in Northumberland, was called in.

A spokesman at the RAF base said: "Our chaps say it was one of the hairiest missions they've ever been on. They had very little room to manoeuvre and at some points could barely see 50 yards. With the turbulence and snow the way it was, that made it a particularly risky operation."

Yesterday Mr Hogan, of Park Avenue, Rainhill, Merseyside, underwent surgery for severe head and back injuries.

The spokesman for Patterdale mountain rescue team said: "The conditions made it a very risky operation all round, but the helicopter crew was magnificent."

"It took great courage and expertise to manage the manoeuvre and get him away to hospital."

The crew, Flight Lieutenants Mike Fairbairn, the pilot, Kev Emberson, his co-pilot

and Mal Ternouth, radar operator, together with Sergeant John McCormack, the winchman, were enjoying a well-earned break last night.

Sergeant McCormack, aged 29, described the rescue as one of the most perilous he has been involved in.

"Conditions were bad as I have seen. The snow, low cloud and darkness reduced visibility drastically. And the wind was a very big problem."

"We were all very very anxious to say the least. We tried one route and had to abort that because of the high winds, then we just hovered for about five miles. It took us about an hour and a half and at some points we were travelling at walking pace."

"In some parts the helicopter was going within about 15 feet of a cliff edge. It was at the very limit."

"But we train all the time for this sort of thing so it was just a question of calling on our experience and staying cool even when you are being blown around a lot."

"I was hanging out of the chopper during the operation, but I didn't go down on the winch until we reached the injured man."



A 32t-ton load causing a traffic tailback on the M4 yesterday from Avonmouth, Avon, to Didcot, Oxfordshire. The load, a transformer for a power station, was carried by an 18ft wide, 22ft truck with 112 wheels (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

20 police hurt in Christmas violence

Twenty policemen have been injured during brawls in towns in the Thames Valley over the Christmas period.

The officers needed hospital treatment after being called in a series of disturbances, in town centres, and outside public houses and social clubs, which began on Christmas Eve.

Nine officers were injured in Buckinghamshire, during disturbances in Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, five in Slough, Berkshire, and two others in the county at Reading and Wokingham; two in Oxford, and two others in Oxfordshire at Banbury and Cowley.

A spokesman for Thames Valley police said that none of the victims had been detained in hospital, but several would require outpatient treatment to injuries sustained during the disturbances, most of which were related to excessive drinking.

"What should have been a peaceful Christmas turned into violence," he said.

Portfolio Gold Winnings go into the kitchen

The winner of the weekly Portfolio Gold prize was Mrs Vera Brooks, of Hove, East Sussex, who will receive £2,000. Three readers shared Saturday's daily Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000, each receiving £1,333.

Mrs Kathleen Griffin, a widow in her seventies, of Heath Town, Wolverhampton, plans to spend her winnings on a new refrigerator and cooker. "They will both come in very useful," she said.

Mrs Griffin, who has been playing Portfolio Gold for a long time, was overjoyed in winning the prize money, and added: "I hope the other winners are as happy, and please about it as I am."

Another winner, Mr Nicholas Taylor, an actuary from Bristol, has been playing Portfolio Gold since the game started, helped by his wife and daughter.

When asked how he intended spending the prize money, Mr Griffin said: "This time of year it will be put towards school fees and paying for Christmas."

The other winner was Mr L B K Townsend, of south-west London.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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The Times
PO Box 40
Blackburn
BB1 6AJ



Nicholas Taylor was helped by his wife and daughter

BP to drill for oil in Sussex

East Sussex County Council has given BP permission to drill for oil and gas at Hartfield on the Kent border.

The site, to the west of Holywell golf course, is screened by woodland from the A264 Tunbridge Wells to East Grinstead road and a residential area.

Disability win

DHSS officials have agreed that Mr Andrew Potts, aged 19, of Hawthorne Avenue, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, who has only one leg, is eligible for a disability allowance. This follows a six-month fight and intervention by his MP.

Lake search

A team of police divers will today begin a search of Ullswater in the Lake District for Mr Gerard Devlin, a lawyer who has only been seen since last Tuesday when he left for his office near Glasgow. His car was found by the lake on Christmas Eve.

Head's award

The French government has made Mr Peter Downes, headmaster of the Hinchingsbrook Secondary School at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, a chevalier of the Ordre des Palmes Academiques in recognition of his services to French culture.

Train death

Matthew Ellis, aged 19, of Crawfield Green, Baglan, Port Talbot, died yesterday after falling from the London to Swansea train as it travelled through Pyle, South Wales, at 70 mph. He had been drinking with friends.

Getting better

The condition of Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, aged 77, the broadcaster, was slightly improved in hospital in Haverfordwest, Dyfed, yesterday. He was admitted for tests a week ago.

Parent butted by councillor awarded £410

A parent whose nose was broken when a councillor butted him at a meeting called to discuss a school closure has been awarded £410 by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Mr Jim Mullin, aged 55, a Labour member of Gwent County Council, has not been prosecuted, and Mr Andrew Lewis, aged 29, a steel worker, of Newbridge, Gwent, pursued his claim privately.

Mr Charles Whitby, QC, who presided at the compensation board hearing in Cardiff, said that Mr Lewis's claim was justified after hearing how Mr Mullin assaulted him at a meeting in Gwent county hall. Police arrived and reported Mr Mullin for riotous behaviour and assault, but the case was dropped on the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Arts in demand

£3m boost for foreign tours

The growing reputation of British actors, musicians and other artists overseas is to be given a boost by the British Council next year.

In spite of complaints of lack of government funds, the council is supporting more than 500 events ranging from a National Theatre debut in Egypt and Israel, to performances of Britain's *War Requiem* in East and West Berlin and an inaugural tour of the Arab world by a leading rock band.

Sir John Burgh, director-general, said that the £3 million package of tours and exhibitions was in response to increasing demand throughout the world.

"Our arts have never been held in higher regard. However, the available funds are not sufficient to meet the huge demands from overseas, despite major contributions from our partner countries and sponsorship. This is Britain's loss."

The National Theatre will return to Greece in July at the personal invitation of Melina Mercouri, the minister of culture, after successful visits in 1983 and 1985. The company will perform *Antony and Cleopatra*, with Anthony Hopkins and Judy Dench in the title roles, before moving on to Egypt and Israel in October.

Michael Bogdanov's production of *King Henry IV* (parts I and II) and *King Henry V* for the English Shakespeare Company will be performed in Germany and Paris, and the National Youth Theatre will stage Peter Terson's *Zigger Zagger* in Barcelona.

Deborah Warner, the director, has been given an intriguing Shakespearean challenge: to direct *The Tempest* in Bengali in Bangladesh and *Measure for Measure* in Swedish in Stockholm.

An unusual feature of the music programme is the performances by the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra of Britain's *War Requiem* on both sides of the Berlin Wall on August 15 and 16, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the city.

There will be a strong British representation with Jeffrey Tate conducting, assisted by Grant Llewellyn, the Welsh conductor, and 10 young British musicians in the orchestra of 120.

Other classical highlights include a tour of the Soviet Union by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

In an effort to reach younger audiences, the council is mounting its first rock tour. The band, Furniture, which first appeared in the charts this year with *Brilliant Minds*, will visit Iraq, Jordan and Egypt.

An exhibition of British pop music, including video recordings and compact disc listening booths, will open in Turkey in January and will then tour the world.

A harmonious blend of folk culture is in prospect when the Welsh group, Ar Loe, tours Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile; apparently its traditional pipes and horns are familiar to the musicians of the Andes.

The Royal Ballet will tour the Soviet Union for the first time since 1961.

Thugs set dog on top athlete

Eamonn Coghlan, Ireland's world champion athlete, may have to call off his forthcoming American tour after two thugs set their dog on him as he was out on a training run in Dublin.

Coghlan, aged 33, was savaged by a black and white terrier after he asked two teenagers to stop shouting foul language at a woman and her child as they waited for a bus in the city's North Circular Road area on Saturday.

The former world 5,000 metres champion and indoor world record miler underwent surgery at the Mater Hospital for a broken hand and severe tissue damage to his calves and thighs.

Coghlan, who came home to Ireland from the United States for Christmas, said: "I won't know the extent of the damage for at least 24 hours. But there is severe tissue damage. If I miss 10 days training it will mean an end to the US indoor tour."

He said the thugs, on bicycles, rode through traffic lights and were shouting abusive language.

"I asked them to stop as there was a young woman and child there. I pretended to pick up speed and chase them. Then they set the dog on me."

"While I was trying to ward off the animal I broke my left hand. The dog took two chunks literally out of my calf muscle and refused to let go."

A passing motorist took him to hospital, where his left hand was operated on. His condition was comfortable last night.

BR looks at cheap first class travel

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail is to examine the possibility of reintroducing cheap first class day return tickets, which were abolished in 1983.

A spokesman for British Rail confirmed that the issue was to be re-examined, but said there were no plans for reintroducing the tickets in the near future, and it was unlikely that they would ever be brought back on a national scale.

Another source, however, said he thought the opposition to bringing back the off-peak tickets came only from the highest levels of management, and that at lower levels there was considerable interest in experimenting with cheap first class fares.

It is believed that managers would like to reintroduce such tickets experimentally on Network SouthEast and on selected routes on the Inter-City network, where first class carriages are under-used during peak periods.

A study by the Central Transport Consultative Committee (CTCC), a travellers' watchdog organization, which has been pressing British Rail on the issue for three years, said there was undoubtedly a case for bringing back the tickets in London and the South-east.

One suggestion is that the first class off-peak return fare should be set at the same level as the standard second class return fare.

Mr Barry Flaxman, chairman of the Transport Consultative Committee for Eastern England, and a member of the CTCC, said that British Rail had been under strong pressure to bring back the tickets, although at a lesser discount than before.

Mr Adrian Houghton, vice-chairman of the South-east-on-Sea Railway Travellers' Association in Essex, said that if businessmen were able to afford a reasonable price to travel first class so that they could do some work, many would prefer rail travel to going by car. But if the choice was between high first class fares, and second class travel, then they would prefer to go by car.

However, Mr Trevor Garrod, general secretary of the Railways Development Society, said that the reintroduction of the tickets would affect only a small proportion of the travelling public.

£100,000 reward to find killers

By a Staff Reporter

The brother of the murdered Greek fashion tycoon, Aristos Constantinou, yesterday doubled to £100,000 the reward for information about the killers, and spoke of a tape recording he said contained vital new evidence.

Mr Achille Constantinou was speaking after a memorial service for his brother, who was shot dead at his home in Hammersmith, north-west London, on January 1, 1985.

Police have been unable to solve the killing, in spite of taking more than 1,000 statements and spending nearly two years on the case. It also divided the Constantinou family, after the murdered man's widow, Elena, married an American, then separated from him and moved to Cyprus.

Yesterday Mr Constantinou, aged 38, said: "It is time the truth came out. We are therefore increasing the reward to £100,000 for any information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the murderer or murderers."

He also said one of two men arrested in connection with the killing, but subsequently released, claimed to have a tape recording of a conversation he had with the former Mrs Constantinou. "I appeal to them to surrender this evidence to the police."

Mr and Mrs Constantinou had been returning from a New Year's Eve party when Mr Constantinou, aged 40, was shot. The murder weapon was not found and although £50,000 was stolen the dead man's brother said that thousands more was left in the house.

Mr Constantinou also claimed that police were flying to Cyprus to interview a new important witness.

Scotland Yard could not confirm yesterday either the existence of the tape recording or the trip to Cyprus.

Cottage fire kills sisters

Lucy Malone, aged 15, and her sister Osyth, aged four, died in a house fire yesterday in spite of their father's efforts to save them.

Mr John Malone managed to rescue his son, David, aged eight, but was beaten back by smoke when he tried to get up the stairs of the family's cottage at Valley View, Newmarket, Suffolk, to reach the girls. His attempt to enter using a ladder also failed.

Firemen fought the blaze for three and a half hours.

Mr Malone's wife, Mrs Osyth Malone, also survived the fire, and another son, Patrick, aged 18, was not at the house at the time.

The family were thought to have moved to the house on Christmas Eve. Clothes being aired close to a heater are believed to have started the fire.

Station Officer Keith Martin said that the girls were too terrified to leave the house.

He added: "The father did get as far as the top of the stairs, and called out to his daughters through the flames, but for some reason, probably fright, they refused to move, and he was unable to get closer to them."

Siege man is found shot dead

Armed police found a dead man lying beside a shotgun when they searched a house after a siege in south-east London yesterday.

The armed man had burst into his former girl friend's house in Garganey Walk, Plumstead, at 3 am yesterday and assaulted her current boy friend, who took refuge with her three children in a barricaded bedroom.

Scotland Yard said worried neighbours alerted police, who heard a shot from the house as they arrived. They rescued the children's mother and treated until contact was made by telephone with the apparent hostages.

Seven hours after the armed man entered the house, the boy friend and children escaped through a bathroom window using a fire service ladder. Police then searched the house and found the man dead, with head wounds, beside his gun in the living room.

The boy friend and children were taken to Brook General Hospital near by for medical checks. A hospital spokesman said the children were discharged after 20 minutes but the man stayed longer, receiving treatment for cuts and bruises.

Three boys of eight wreck junior school

A junior school has been almost completely wrecked by three boys aged eight who are too young to be prosecuted.

They ransacked classrooms, wrecked furniture, smashed windows and trophies and daubed obscenities. They also crushed pots and plants, ripped clocks and artwork from walls, tore books to shreds and wrecked out telephones at Panside school, Newbridge, Gwent.

Mr Roger Thomas, the headmaster, and his staff seven are spending their holidays cleaning up.

Gwent police said: "It is the worst act of vandalism we have ever known but the boys are below the age of criminal responsibility and cannot be prosecuted."

"The boys themselves could not give any explanation."

Body in field

A murder hunt began last night after police found the injured body of a middle-aged man in a Hampshire field. The victim, thought to be a local man, was found in the Solent village of Netley.

The Normans who dug themselves in

The wild rabbits that live either side of the B2141 road in the parish of West Dean, near Chichester, West Sussex, are some of the best bred in Britain. Their history has been traced a great deal further than most human families, to Norman times.

The first detailed history of a rabbit warren has been published by two ecologists, Mr Andrew Tittensor and his wife, Ruth, who have been studying the West Dean rabbit warren for the past five years. They have sifted records and organized archaeological digs to get at every local rabbit fact.

"Black rabbits occasionally pop up in the fields near by and these are the descendants of those originally imported by the Normans, which were black, silver or fawn," Mrs Tittensor said yesterday.

The West Dean rabbits started life sometime during the thirteenth century, as luxury animals bred for the tables of Arundel Castle. The Tittensors found traces of an old pillow mound, an artificial burrow created to encourage the then rare animals to breed.

There were also remains of what was probably a watchtower. "It was quite normal to have towers where the warren-er could check on poaching."

The first written reference to the warren came in 1570, during the reign of Elizabeth I, showing that Thomas Stoughton farmed it. In 1583, the rent was £20 and a new tenant was obliged to keep a breeding stock of 3,600 adults.

Through the reigns of the first two Stuarts, the Civil War

Oliver Cromwell the rabbits flourished

By 1682 the warren contained 900 breeding pairs of rabbits let out at a rent of £45.

The decline and fall of the warren came in with the Hanoverian dynasty. By 1729 a document complained, "It is more notorious than coney" (the old name for rabbits).

Sixty years later the rabbits had their most famous visitor, Gilbert White, the naturalist, who came to stay with his brother-in-law in a house about 100 yards away. He saw jackdaws nesting in the rabbit burrows, presumably because there were no other more suitable nesting sites.

The blackest year came in 1803 under George III. In what was meant to be a holocaust of all rabbits, the burrows and pillow mounds were stopped up. But they remained an agricultural pest.

The next big setback came in 1954 with myxomatosis. Although vast numbers of rabbits died, their comeback took only 30 years. "We estimate there are now about 750 rabbits still on the site," Mrs Tittensor said.

One fact eludes the Tittensors. How did warrens get their name? "We assume the word comes from the Earl de Warren who came over with William the Conqueror. But we don't know where he came from in France. If any historian knows, we would like the information just to round off where it all started."

The Rabbit Warren at West Dean (Ruth and Andrew Tittensor, Warberton Green House, The Street, Warberton, Arundel, Sussex, £1.75).

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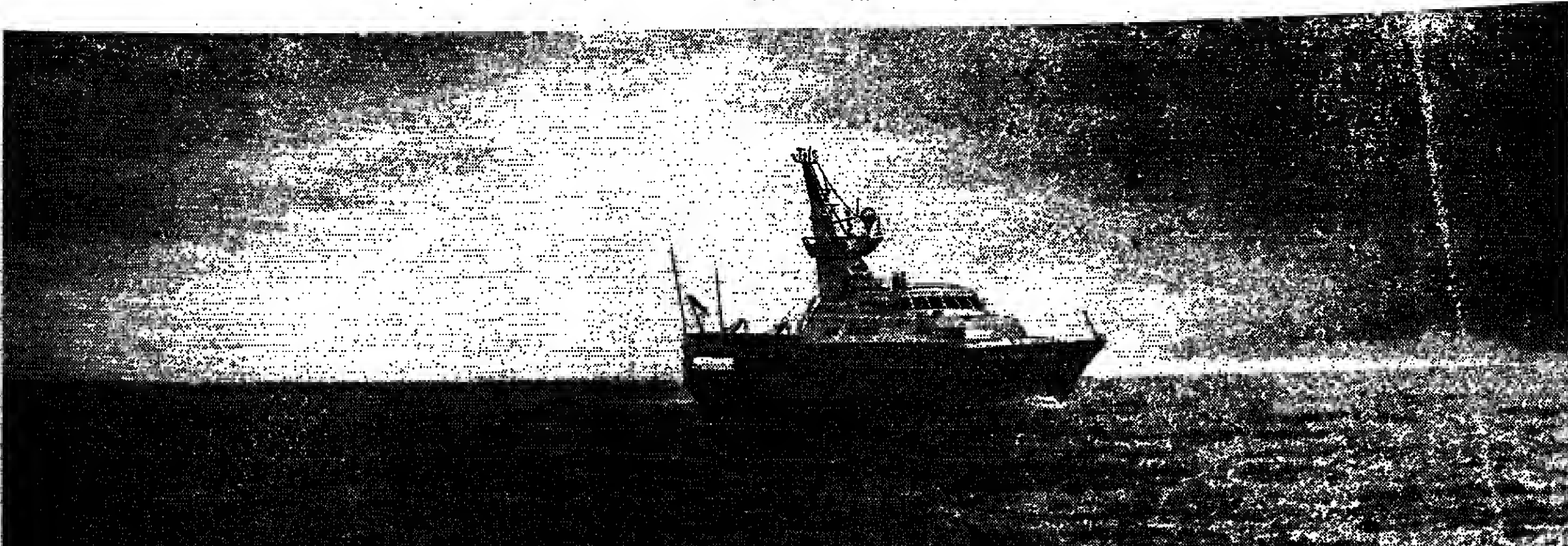
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صحة من الاعمال

Longest

Housing finance: 1

Building firms wary as societies step up development plans

Allowing building societies to act as property developers, holding and managing land and building houses, is a practical extension of their present responsibilities.

Some of the biggest societies have been active in the development field for some time through sponsored companies, so the wider housing powers are more of an extension than something new.

Mr John Spalding, director and chief executive of the Halifax, Britain's largest society, told a conference recently that the importance of the power to own land, originally intended to help with shared ownership schemes, has to enable them to become developers, to buy land and build projects rather than just to build them; to drive and bid as well as finance them.

It is a determination that has worried Britain's housebuilders, who believe that societies might use their immense resources to buy land and then undercut builders because they would not need to make a profit.

The House Builders' Federation has avoided discussion of this sensitive matter in its meetings with the Building Societies Association, but the federation, conscious of unrest among its members, has considered the consequence.

Its conclusion is that if building societies operate on equal terms running on a proper commercial basis and not hiding issues if things did

From January 1, The Building Societies Act 1986 will enable societies to offer consumer credit and insurance and undertake housing development with estate agency work. In the first of two articles, Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent, outlines their changing role.

not work out well, they will be acceptable. This fear of unfair competition is rejected by the societies. Mr David Courtie, housing development controller of the Halifax, says: "If we cannot do it profitably, we will not do it."

Although the social aims of its housing policy are vitally important, they are not the end of the story, and the society does not accept that social housing and profit are mutually exclusive. At present every project is rigorously examined and the proposed lending goes to the main board for approval.

When the Halifax has its own subsidiary, its schemes will have to apply for loans and be subjected to the same searching examination as any other developers. Building societies have an advantage in their reputation for dependability, which is not necessarily shared by the private developer, and this has caused builders to be somewhat wary about the future.

They fear, for example, that societies may be better placed to establish land banks and acquire sites from local authorities. No building societies which intend to use the new powers have given any indication that they will be buying building

firms to make their activities self-contained.

Mr Courtie said: "We are not going to build houses ourselves. There is a concern, if not a suspicion, among builders that we are trying to take over their market."

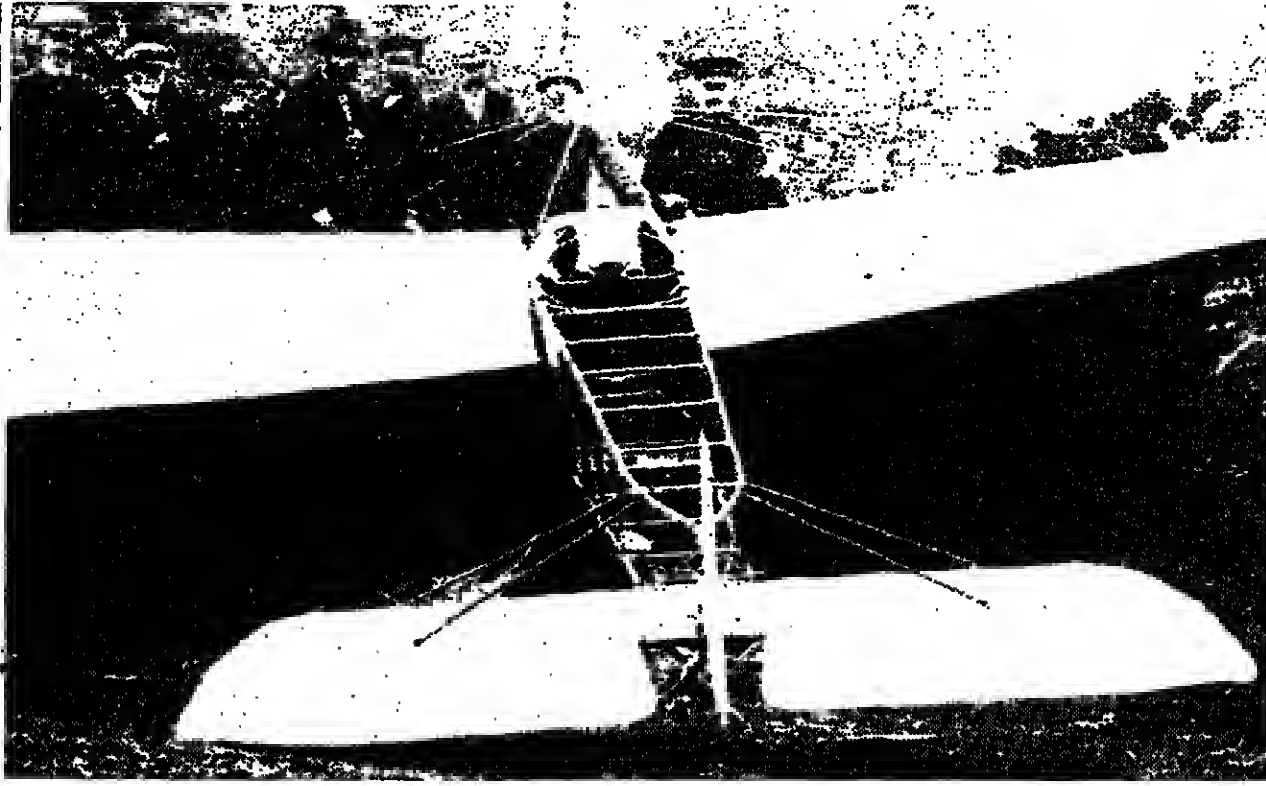
"We see our role as a catalyst and the critical factor is finance. Ten years from now it might be in our interests to buy a building company, but I do not see the benefits now." He said the society would continue to work with firms with which it was already associated.

Several of the largest building societies are now ready to play an increasingly important part in providing much needed housing, but there is an obstacle.

The newly established Building Societies Commission's first guidelines on capital adequacy were drawn so tightly that they jeopardized the societies' ability to enter the field.

As a result of heavy lobbying by building societies, the guidelines are being redrafted, making important concessions. So the building societies may yet, when they know the final guidelines, due to be published in February, become building developers.

Tomorrow: what the societies plan to do.



Denys Corbett-Wilson's aircraft in a field soon after completing the first crossing from Britain to Ireland.



Denys Corbett-Wilson (left) and D L Allen.

Pilots' sea flight to be celebrated

A tragedy and a triumph of aviation will be commemorated in Wales and Ireland next spring with plaques for two pilots who competed to make the first flight between the two countries 75 years ago.

One succeeded; the other was never seen again. Reports at the time were sparse because the pair set off from Hendon, north London, on April 17, 1912, only two days after the loss of the Titanic.

Now two district councils, Preseli in Pembrokeshire and Eanniscorthy Co. Wexford, have decided independently of one another to mark the day. Denys Corbett-Wilson, and Damer Leslie Allen set off from Wales to attempt the crossing.

Each took a different route; but while Corbett-Wilson landed his single-engine Blé-

riot an hour and 40 minutes later at Cave, near Eanniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Allen, flying the Chester-Dublin route, also in a Blériot, went missing.

The Times reported on May 6: "An inflated motor-cycle tube has been washed up on the Irish coast at Laytown, near Drogheda, and it is thought this may be the one taken by Mr D L Allen, who left Holyhead for Dublin on his aeroplane on April 18 and has not been heard of since."

A longer account appeared a month later, saying that Allen had arrived at Chester at 6.45pm on April 17. The last sighting of him was next morning at 7.45am, as he resumed his flight to Holyhead.

Corbett-Wilson was killed in the First World War.

Brontës' home may be turned into flats

By Kenneth Gosling

Property developers are likely to turn the former Brontë parsonage at Thornton, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, into flats or small homes.

After the decision of the Brontë Society and Bradford Council not to buy the property, where Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne were born, it looks unlikely that it will ever become a museum. The asking price is close to £100,000.

Mr and Mrs Stanley Neild, the owners, and Mr Simon Thornton, the agent, had hoped the building where the Brontës lived between 1815 and 1820, would be developed to bring out its historical importance. The parsonage, built in 1802, was originally three cottages and two shops.

Mr Thornton said it was "a little bit disappointing" that the parsonage would not be preserved although part of it - the front wall and garden - was listed. The only serious interest he was aware of was by developers, although he knew of Brontë enthusiasts in East Anglia and London who had told him they would look at the situation.

Mr Robert Hopper, Bradford council's arts and museums officer, said the authority had looked at the building and decided it could not justify buying it either on its own or as part of a museum development.

But he hoped its unique place as the Brontë birthplace could somehow be preserved and developed.

The parsonage was placed on the market last month by Mr and Mrs Neild who have lived there for 46 years.

The Brontë family moved to Haworth after five years at the parsonage.

Royal plea on saving church

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has intervened personally over the future of St Mary's-in-the-Castle, one of the finest Regency churches in England. As Warden of the Cinque Ports, she has written to the local council asking that it should be retained.

The church, which forms the centrepiece of Pelham Crescent, a terrace of houses on the Hastings seafront, was designed by Joseph Kay and built between 1824 and 1828. It seats 1,500.

The church, built as a chapel, closed in 1970, and was used by the Pentecostals before being sold twice for use as a museum. Now, however, the fittings have been stripped out, the roof leaks, and dry rot is evident.

Last October Hastings Borough Council abandoned plans to issue a compulsory purchase order to save the building when it received a report that repairs could cost £2.5 million. Instead, it served a dangerous structures notice.

Now an alternative report, by Save Britain's Heritage and endorsed by the chief engineer of English Heritage, says that essential repairs could cost as little as £250,000. The council has committed itself to spending about £105,000 to repair the church, and East Sussex County Council is offering a further £50,000.

Save Britain's Heritage wants to see the church converted into a conference centre, concert hall, or exhibition space, and claims that English Heritage and the Sussex Heritage Trust would be willing to support such a plan. It is calling on the local council to take the necessary steps to preserve the church as its first new year resolution.

New telescopes to probe deep space

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new generation of telescopes that would greatly increase the range of observatories is proposed for research by British astronomers.

The new instruments would also increase substantially the precision with which scientists could analyse the composition of stars. One of the instruments designed by Dr Roderick Willstrop, of Cambridge University, is described as a unique and outstanding proposal in international astronomy.

The telescope, which would cost about £20 million, is one of a series of revolutionary technical ideas recommended by the Royal Astronomical Society for research between 1990 and the year 2000.

The proposals are contained in a report from a working group of leading astronomers, chaired by Sir Francis Graham Smith, Astronomer Royal and professor of radio astronomy at Manchester University's Jodrell Bank observatory. The astronomers found that future research into the evolution and composition of the universe could be divided into five branches: cosmology, quasars and galaxies, stars, interstellar medium and the solar system.

The excitement over Dr Willstrop's telescope is due to its potential for observations in almost every one of the branches.

The instrument, referred to as a wide-field optical telescope, would allow spectroscopy - the analysis of light which leads to identification of the composite atoms and molecules - of thousands of objects simultaneously.

This is possible because of a much larger mirror than hitherto possible for collecting light. The largest of the three mirrors of the wide-field telescope has a diameter of 5.2 metres, compared with 1.2 metres for the conventional and widely-used Schmidt telescope.

The Willstrop design is not the largest instrument recommended in the report. For examining the most distant quasars and galaxies, the astronomers propose a telescope with a diameter of between eight and 15 metres.

Research which involves two versions is proposed, with a UK project that would cost £50 million and an American one costing £150 million. The Scientific Priorities for UK Astronomical Research for the Period 1990-2000 (Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London, W1). January night sky, page 14

Road threat to offices

By a Staff Reporter

The Welsh Office is proposing to route a by-pass through a newly-built £100,000 tourist information centre.

If the plan goes ahead, the building, officially opened in May, will be demolished and the Government will have to compensate the local council which built it.

The Welsh Office confirms that the by-pass, for Welspool, North Wales, was to run through the information centre.

The centre was built by Montgomeryshire District Council and Powys County Council, at a cost of £104,000. A spokesman for Powys said that the councils expected compensation from the Welsh Office if the centre was demolished.

Work on the £10 million scheme is expected to start in 1988, and the Welsh Office pointed out that the route could have been altered by then.

Longest road inquiry ends

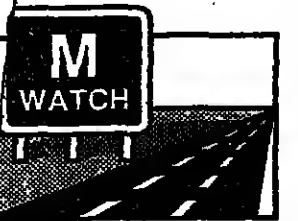
By Our Transport Correspondent

After sitting for more than 200 days, the longest public inquiry ever held in Britain into a road-building proposal has been completed.

The inquiry, into the east London river crossing, produced 9.5 million words of evidence on 21,000 pages of transcript.

The scheme, which has been vigorously opposed, is to build a bridge and associated roads across the river Thames near Plumstead in London, which would link the North Circular Road to the A2 south of the river.

In response to criticisms the Department of Transport in August proposed that the road through Plumstead should be placed in a tunnel rather than being carried on viaduct as originally intended. Major roadworks will start on Monday, January 5. Most roadworks were either completed or suspended by



the Christmas and new year period.

London and South-east

M275 Hampshire: Between M27 intersection and Rudmore roundabout, Portsmouth. Construction of new flyover.

Midlands

No major roadworks likely to cause delays.

North

M1 South Yorkshire: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (A57 Worksop and A630 Rotherham). Various slip road closures at junctions

31 and 32 (M18 interchange) until end of January.

M6 Lancashire: Roadworks at junction 23 (Merseyside). Also contraflow between junctions 29 and 32 (A6 Preston and M55 interchange) until January.

M61 Blacow Bridge, Lancashire: Construction work at M6 interchange. Lane closures both directions.

Wales and the West

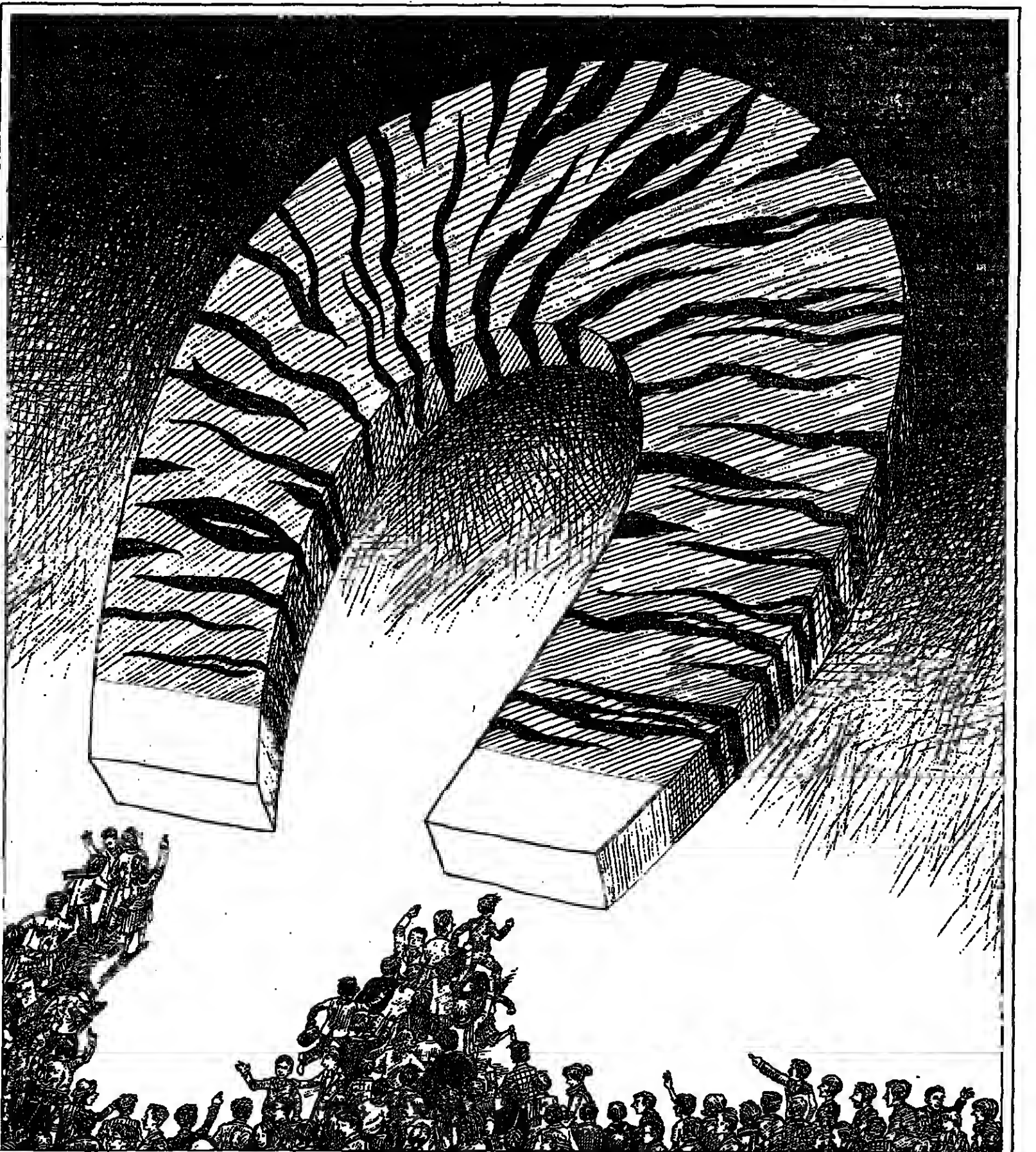
No major roadworks likely to cause delays.

Scotland

M8 Glasgow: Construction work between junctions 15 and 17 (city centre and Dumbarston) until March 1987.

A82 Dumbartonshire: Major roadworks south of Ardul. Delays likely. Continues into 1987.

M74 Lesmahagow: Roadworks north of Lesmahagow between junctions 2 and 1. Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch. Other roadworks, page 16.



Making industry more attractive is all a question of pull.

Industry Year 1986 began against decades of negative industrial attitudes.

"Britain is a curious paradox of an industrialised country with an anti-industrial culture", summed up Alistair Burt, MP, in a parliamentary debate on 26th November.

Yet he also had some cheering news about the success of Industry Year in his region, the north-west.

With the major thrust of Industry Year to strengthen links between industry and education, 270 secondary schools (50 per cent of the north-west total) are now linked with local companies. It is double the figure for 1985.

All over the UK similar effort has been made, with companies galvanised into action to change attitudes. Among them, Esso.

We've made and distributed, for instance, technology films and videos for schools - and issued 7,000 secondary schools with a series of wall charts for the DTTI-backed Physics Plus project.

We continually visit schools ourselves, encouraging return visits to our plants and terminals.

We have also helped teachers to gain industrial experience through the Understanding British Industry Secondment Programme - and we are in the forefront of sixth-form Work Shadowing, with over 50 Esso executives participating.

British companies have combined in a remarkable national campaign this year.

We hope it is the start of making British industry magnetic once again.



Quality at work for Britain.

INDUSTRY Matters

WORLD SUMMARY

Iacocca not interested in being President

Detroit (Reuter) — Mr Lee Iacocca, the chairman of Chrysler, said he does not want to be President of the United States because in a few years the American economy will be in such a crisis that he would not know what to do.

The blunt-talking businessman said in an interview with leading news agencies last week that he plans to stay as chief executive of Chrysler, the third-largest US car company, at least until he turns 65 years of age on October 15 1989.

"If we have (an economic) downer coming up, what are the options?" he said. "I'd be damned if I know. That's why I don't want to be President."

"And I'm not being a doomsday guy, I'm just saying we gotta pay the piper some time, don't we?" It was Mr Iacocca's strongest disavowal yet of a possible presidential bid. He has been mentioned frequently as a possible candidate since leading Chrysler from near-bankruptcy to soaring profitability with a government loan a few years ago.

He said he would stay at Chrysler through late 1989. He said he would stay at Chrysler through late 1989.

Four shot in car Appeal to police

Peshawar (Reuter) — A local political leader was shot dead in his car with two of his sons and a brother near here in the latest outbreak of a 10-year-old family feud, police said yesterday.

Haji Mir Aftab Khan, aged 76, was president of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) for Peshawar district and an associate of Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister.

Amnesty nearly over

Warsaw (Reuter) — Poland's Communist authorities have been increasing pressure on leading opposition supporters to moderate their activities during the final days of an amnesty offer to political opponents, diplomats said yesterday.

The six-month amnesty, under which all of the country's political prisoners have been released and more than 500 people surrendered to police before being freed, expires at midnight on December 31.

Western sources said the measure had achieved only partial success and that the authorities had failed in their hope of securing the dissolution of the banned Solidarity free trade union's underground Provisional Co-ordinating Commission (TKK).

With the underground still at work and operating a printing network that distributes illegal newspapers and literature nationwide, the sources said the authorities were already setting up their post-amnesty strategy for dealing with the opposition.

Fighting in Chad Open to visitors

N'Djamena (Reuter) — Troops loyal to the former Chadian rebel leader and Libyan ally Goukouni Oueddei, yesterday fought Libyan soldiers in the tiny town of Chad's Tibesti mountains, official sources said.

The "most decisive fighting" was taking place at Zouat. Chad has appealed for Western military aid to help it repulse what it says is a major attack on the Tibesti area by Libya.

Plea to help free spy

Tel Aviv (Reuter) — The wife of the US Navy intelligence analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, who was convicted of spying for Israel, has urged the Israelis to help free her husband.

Mrs Anne Henderson-Pollard told the Jerusalem Post in an interview published yesterday: "I would beg the Israeli leadership — for all that my husband has done for the security of Israel — to grant citizenship to my husband and to let him return to his homeland so that he can become a productive citizen."

Pollard is in prison awaiting sentence after pleading guilty in June to espionage charges. He was arrested in 1985 outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington and admitted passing secret US documents to an Israeli spy ring.

Iceland shipping disasters Survivors owe lives to Nimrod crew

Reykjavik (AP) — Survivors from the Icelandic freighter Sudurland, which sank on Christmas Day, said yesterday that they owed their lives to a British reconnaissance plane which dropped a new lifeboat as they tumbled near death in a leaking dinghy.

Meanwhile, an inquiry was due to start at the Icelandic port of Eskifjordur into whether human error or faulty equipment caused a second disaster when a British tanker, the Syneta, ran on to a rock marked by a lighthouse, killing the crew of 12.

Searches resumed at first light for the bodies of three crewmen from the 1,260-ton Syneta who were still unaccounted for and presumed dead. The tanker, with six British officers and six African deckhands from the Cape Verde Islands aboard, crashed into the 531ft Skrudur rock off the east coast early on Friday.

The five survivors from the 11-member Icelandic crew of the 3,500-ton Sudurland arrived in Reykjavik late on Saturday via the Faroe Islands, where they were taken by a Danish patrol ship, the Vaederen. A helicopter from the Danish ship plucked the survivors and three bodies from the lifeboat.

An RAF Nimrod reconnaissance plane, based at Kinloss, Scotland, dropped a survival kit, including the new lifeboat, some 10 hours after the Sudurland sank on Thursday in rough seas 290 miles east of Iceland.

A Suderland pilot, Mr Joo Snaebjornsson, described how three of the eight crewmen who scrambled on board the ship's torn and leaking lifeboat died as, exhausted, they could no longer hold themselves upright in the freezing, waist-deep water.

"The Nimrod crews saved our lives," said Mr Snaebjornsson. "It took us about an hour to paddle to the new dry boat."

"Only a short time earlier two of us sat down in the boat and died," he added. "We had to stand all the time and grab our hands in the roof if we were to survive. Three of us who sat down never stood up again."

He said the survivors were earlier given hope when, after four-and-a-half hours in the leaking dinghy, a Nimrod and an American PC3 Orion patrol plane from a US base at Keflavik, Iceland, flew over and dropped flares and locating beacons.

The Sudurland's lifeboat had a hole ripped in it when it crashed against the sinking ship as the crew battled to launch it. All the emergency food and equipment, apart from one distress rocket, vanished through the hole.

Three crewmen, including the captain, disappeared with the ship in heavy seas. Captain Preben Andersen of the Vaederen said he doubted if the survivors could have lasted much longer without the new lifeboat.

"Perhaps only a half hour or an hour, certainly no more," he said. "... And two of the survivors had only a few minutes left when we picked them up."

Mr Herrmann's credibility is likely to be limited by the fact that he is serving an eight-year sentence for his part in a counterfeiting operation in Britain. His defence was that he became involved as an infiltrator on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was interviewed in Wandsworth prison, according to The Sunday Telegraph.

The newspaper said he now wished to return to Washington to testify to the Senate committee investigating allegations that money from arms sales to Iran was diverted to support Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

His lawyers had applied for him to be repatriated to an American prison, but essential documents had been held up by the Home Office. At the same time the Home Office was planning to move him to Parkhurst high-security prison.

The only way out of the Gare du Nord



A lone traveller waiting for a possible train in the deserted Gare du Nord in Paris and, right, passengers boarding a bus for Brussels outside the station.



Passengers boarding a bus for Brussels outside the station.

Hopes rise for Paris rail pact

A small ray of hope has appeared that the hardline positions of both strikers and management in the French railway strike, now in its 11th day, may soften.

Informal meetings between unions and management on working conditions and wage structures, among the main reasons for the strike, are set to take place tomorrow. This will be the first contact between unions and management since talks broke down a week ago.

The management had declared on Friday that there could be no talks before a return to work and this statement had helped to stiffen the resolve of many strikers to stay out. The general sentiment was that they had already lost too much money in wages to agree to go back without any of their claims having been met.

If these preliminary meetings take place tomorrow, it will not be seen as a re-opening of negotiations, but rather as a first attempt to bring the two sides together in the hope of re-opening negotiations.

An official announcement yesterday said that foreign passport holders could visit the hill resort town of Ranganati, but would not be allowed to stay more than three days.

While the Government cannot be seen to back down on its fixed wages policy for fear of creating other areas of unrest in the public sector, there is a widespread feeling that the management's hardline stand has only served to prolong the strike.

Meanwhile, a two-week-old strike of merchant seamen belonging to the CGT union continues. Several ports, including Marseilles and Bordeaux, are affected.

Fresh twist in Iran arms saga

A report that arms-for-hostages talks began nearly a year earlier than Washington has admitted may cause some embarrassment in Anglo-American relations today.

A former US intelligence agent, Mr William Herrmann, claimed that he discussed a deal with an Iranian representative as early as October, 1984, after being briefed that it had been "countenanced at the highest level within the Central Intelligence Agency".

The Reagan Administration has said that talks on arms sales began in August, 1985, in an attempt to build bridges with moderates in the Iranian Government.

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His lawyers had applied for him to be repatriated to an American prison, but essential documents had been held up by the Home Office. At the same time the Home Office was planning to move him to Parkhurst high-security prison.

As to Mr Herrmann's application to be repatriated, an official spokesman said yesterday that officials dealing with the matter could not be contacted.

Iranian dissident sources in London said that Mr Herrmann's allegation on the October, 1984, talks was consistent with information they had received that negotiations began far earlier than had been suggested. However, there was no confirmation of the newspaper's specific claim that he met Mr Menuchar Ghorbanifar, an Iranian secret service officer, at the Churchill Hotel in London to discuss an arms-for-hostages deal.

Mr Herrmann was also reported to have claimed that it was Mr Ghorbanifar who first broached the idea of using funds from the sale of weapons to Iran to fund the Cootras.

The lonely wait for a coach

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The huge metalwork structure of Paris's Gare du Nord resembles a carcass. Almost all activity inside the railway station has ceased and the more deserted areas have become a limbo world where solitary footsteps attract the attention of the down-and-outs and weirdos who seem to have moved in in force.

In the main hall, small groups of people wander disconsolately around. The Metro is still dispersing suitcase-carrying holidaymakers who hope to reach their destinations somehow.

While other Paris stations are managing to maintain some form of service, the Gare du Nord has been totally paralysed by the railway strike since it started 11 days ago.

People find their way through to the station courtyard where coaches are lined up. Destinations are scrawled on bits of paper stuck to their windscreens and they leave when they have enough passengers to make the trip worthwhile.

There are not many takers. A few people sit on a coach marked Calais-Boulogne and a few more on one marked Lyons. There is a small bundle of activity around one marked Brussels.

Men with the coaches' destinations scrawled on pieces of cardboard, walk around the main hall waiting for customers. It is the Gare du Nord which serves as the main link between the English Channel ports and Paris, but it is not from there that the main Paris-London bus services have been set up. Nor are there any signs in the station indicating that these services exist.

The Paris-London coaches are being organized from the coach station at La Porte de la Villette on the northern perimeter of the city. Here too, they organize the main coach services to the ski resorts in France.

Yesterday morning two coaches left for London, with all seats taken, and two left late last night. There is no definite coach link for British skiers who leave London and hope to reach the resorts, although several winter sports travel agencies have been organizing their own transport.

British holidaymakers arriving at French ports on the Channel will find coaches waiting to take them to Paris and once there they can try to find themselves either a train or a coach.

About 25 per cent of trains are running in France on a "minimum-service" basis and about two-thirds of the normal number of high-speed TGV trains are running to the main centres in The Alps, like Chambéry and Grenoble. Passengers should arrive at their destinations, but the length of time it will take is unpredictable.

In several parts of France strikers have been sitting on the railway lines to try to prevent trains leaving the station. This causes delays of another hour or two as police remove them. The high-speed TGV train from Grenoble on Saturday was accompanied by police, running alongside, as it pulled out from the station.

At Perpignan (Pyrenees-Orientales) angry passengers, who had been stranded for two days, themselves blocked the line when railway staff tried to arrange the departure of a Spanish goods train, carrying oranges. Passengers let the line only when it was agreed that a passenger coach would be attached to the train. This then caused striking railway workers to sit on the line and only after police intervention did both passages and oranges set out.

The Transport Department, which operates the island, also disclaimed any knowledge. South Africa has always refused to comment on persistent claims that it as developed nuclear weapons. The most substantial allegations were made by M David Fischer, a former assistant director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who said the South Africa could build two Hiroshima-size nuclear weapons each year.

He claimed that weapons-grade uranium could be produced at the Valindaba uranium-enrichment facility near Johannesburg and plutonium from the Koeberg power station near Cape Town. The authorities have joined out that the country's three nuclear reactors are open to international inspection and denied any involvement with a nuclear weapons programme.

Earlier this year talks between South Africa and the IAEA over inspection of Valindaba broke down. In the past South Africa has not responded to calls from the IAEA for full-scale agreements covering plant inspections. The country was expelled from the IAEA and is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Leading article, page 13

Threat posed by Soviet special forces

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The author, Colonel Michael Hickey, argues that unlike the risk of nuclear war, the threat at the lower end of the military scale is growing. He believes that Britain is a more vulnerable and tempting target than any other Nato country, its vulnerability stemming from a failure to take precautions and its key role in European defence.

He implicitly criticizes the Government's failure to set up a nationwide volunteer defence force. Such a force was proposed by a committee headed by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton in 1983. It would protect likely manpower, actually training, Britain would be able to mobilize only 0.4 per cent of the able-bodied population, against 52.3 per cent in Switzerland.

He traces two main sources of resistance to home defence. Some schemes would have involved more than outgovernment departments, leading to confusion, while Lord Hill-Norton's plan suffered from comparisons with the anachronistic "Dad's Army," of the BBC comedy series.

The Spetsnaz Threat: Co-Britain Be Defended? by Colonel Michael Hickey, £4.50.

Pretoria faces nuclear queries

By George Brock and Andrew McEwen

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was asked yesterday to establish whether South Africa plans to use a remote island territory for nuclear testing.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linnithgow, posed the question after a report that South Africa plans to build a £4 million runway on Marion Island, 1,200 miles south of Cape Town.

Officially used only as a rather station, the island is said to have been visited by South African and Israeli military officers in the past two years. A flash spotted in the air in 1979 by an American satellite was interpreted in son quarters as evidence of a nuclear test.

The island lies mid-way between the Cape and the Antarctic. Mr Dalyell asked Sir Geoffrey whether it was covered by the Antarctic Treaty which Britain is a signatory. He also called on the Foreign Secretary to move a resolution at the United Nations calling on South Africa to become involved in nuclear testing on the island.

However, South Africa could have at least one non-military reason for building the runway: it would make a well-placed base for monitoring developments in the Antarctic as negotiations over the Treaty governing the allocation of territory pick up speed over the next few years.

The South African Government refused all comment on the report. A spokesman for Armscor, its government weapons development and procurement organization, refused to react to what he described as "speculation". A defence spokesman said he had no knowledge of the reported plans.

The Transport Department, which operates the island, also disclaimed any knowledge. South Africa has always refused to comment on persistent claims that it as developed nuclear weapons. The most substantial allegations were made by M David Fischer, a former assistant director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who said the South Africa could build two Hiroshima-size nuclear weapons each year.

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Leading article, page 13

Britain seen as a vulnerable target

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Soviet special forces operating in Britain at a time of high tension could undermine the country's will to fight, jeopardize its Nato role and cause a breakdown of law and order, according to a study published today.

The threat posed by the "Troops of Special Designation," or Spetsnaz, is analysed in a paper issued by the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies.

Highly-trained units, which form part of GRU, the Soviet military intelligence, would be landed in Britain to sabotage key installations and assassinate public figures.

The author, Colonel Michael Hickey, argues that unlike the risk of nuclear war, the threat at the lower end of the military scale is growing. He believes that Britain is a more vulnerable and tempting target than any other Nato country, its vulnerability stemming from a failure to take precautions and its key role in European defence.

He implicitly criticizes the Government's failure to set up a nationwide volunteer defence force. Such a force was proposed by a committee headed by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton in 1983. It would protect likely manpower, actually training, Britain would be able to mobilize only 0.4 per cent of the able-bodied population, against 52.3 per cent in Switzerland.

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Leading article, page 13

Seven killed in Bavaria hotel blast

From John England Bonn

The death toll from an explosion and fire at a winter sports resort hotel in Bavaria on Saturday rose to seven yesterday when rescue workers recovered another body from the wreckage.

Twelve other people were injured, four of them seriously, in the blast at the Hotel Riessensee, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, near the German-Austrian border. One of the 300 hotel guests was reported to be missing early yesterday.

The explosion, believed to have been caused by a leak of liquid gas from a six-tonne storage tank near the hotel's gymnasium and indoor swimming pool, brought down a wing of the building.

Two ski lift cars crashed to the ground (Susan MacDonald writes from Paris).

The accident happened at the Orres ski resort in the Hautes Alpes as one ascending cable car passed another coming down soon after the start of the ski lift.

Both cars plunged 12 metres onto cars in the parking area after the top of a lift pylon snapped off. The ascending car was carrying more than 30 standing passengers, including 10 children, while the one coming down contained only one person. 16 people remained seriously injured in hospital yesterday, including several children. Many were suffering from fractured limbs and severe cuts.

Tehran honour for suicide bomber

Shia village boasts of its teenage martyr

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Deir Qanoun en-Nahr, southern Lebanon

The people of his Shia Muslim village are rejoicing over a recent Iranian decision to honour posthumously a local teenager said to have killed at least 75 Israeli soldiers 4½ years ago.

Mr Jaafar Khalil Qassar, proud father of a newborn of Lebanon's Shias, who are fighting against the occupation of their land by the Israeli Army, said: "Men and women from all over the south have come to see us this week."

Mr Qassar, a hefty carpenter, and his quiet wife, Fawziya, live in a small house that has become a rare attraction in southern Lebanon. He walls of their dark living room of red sofas are naked except for a bronze plaque sent to them by officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The corner is engraved with the features of the Iranian patriarch, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini; opposite is a small black and white photograph of a boy.

Ahmad Qassar had just turned 16 years old when he left his home one October morning in 1982, urging his mother to be courageous and promising to explain his departure some day to his six brothers and three sisters. His farewell marked the conclusion of a year of rigorous secret training in the ranks of the fledgling Hezbollah (Party of God) in a place which was then under the control of the Israeli Army.

Only a handful of men knew that Ahmad Qassar was behind the wheel of the white Peugeot loaded with explosives that crashed into the HQ of the Israeli Army in Tyre on November 11 1982.

The explosion flattened the eight-storey building, inflicted the biggest casualty toll the Israelis had suffered in a single attack during the invasion, and set the pattern for a new strategy of suicide bombings.

Fearful of Israeli reprisals against his family and village, Ahmad Qassar hid made his comrades swear nobody would know who carried out the attack until the Israelis had left.

The Israeli Army withdrew the bulk of its troops from southern Lebanon last year, but it was not until after the appearance of a poster showing a boyish face emerging from the smouldering ruins of the Israeli headquarters and proclaiming Ahmad Qassar a martyr of Islam that his identity was revealed.

Now Mr Ali Akbar Mowtashemi, the Iranian Interior Minister, has paid tribute to Lebanon's growing army of suicide bombers. As a military band played the Iranian anthem, he dedicated an elegant street in north Tehran's embassy row in the memory of Ahmad Qassar.

Ahmad Qassar Street runs parallel to Khaled Iskandari Street, named after one of the assassins of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

The inhabitants of Deir Qanoun en-Nahr have no plans to reciprocate the Iranian gesture by choosing a name for the village's muddy main street.

Israeli police clamp down after Vanunu's revelations

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israeli police went to great lengths yesterday to make sure that Mr Mordechai Vanunu, *The Sunday Times*'s informant on Israel's nuclear bomb-making capabilities, had no contact with the press when he appeared in the Jerusalem District Court to plead not guilty to charges of treason and aggravated espionage.

When he appeared before the court a week before he managed to write a message on the palm of his hand suggesting that Israeli agents kidnapped him in Rome to bring him to Israel. Yesterday, the authorities made sure that he would not make another revelation in the same way.

The van that brought him from his top security prison to Jerusalem had curtained windows so that he could not repeat his trick of pressing his palm against the glass for photographers.

An even more effective precaution was the decision to convey him to the court at 8.30, so he arrived in semi-darkness before any photographers were there.

At the end of the secret hearing lasting an hour-and-a-half, he was escorted out by a large group of police with a black bag over his head and a bright red umbrella held over him to make sure that if he made any hand signals they could not be seen. The van then sped away back to the prison.

His lawyer, Mr Amoun Zichroni, made the plea for him to the court and he did not speak at all during the hearing, which was adjourned for six weeks.

The prosecution has indicated that it will not press for conviction for treason,

since no actual state of war exists with Israel. But conviction on the lesser charge still carries a mandatory life sentence.

Mr Zichroni has demanded that all his client's papers, books and Walkman tape-recorder be returned to him and an application for them is to be made through the High Court if this is not done promptly. This might mean Mr Vanunu would have to make a further appearance before the court shortly.

● Rome flight: Mr Vanunu used his own name when he booked a flight from London to Rome, despite warnings to avoid identifying himself. *The Sunday Times* reported yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes).

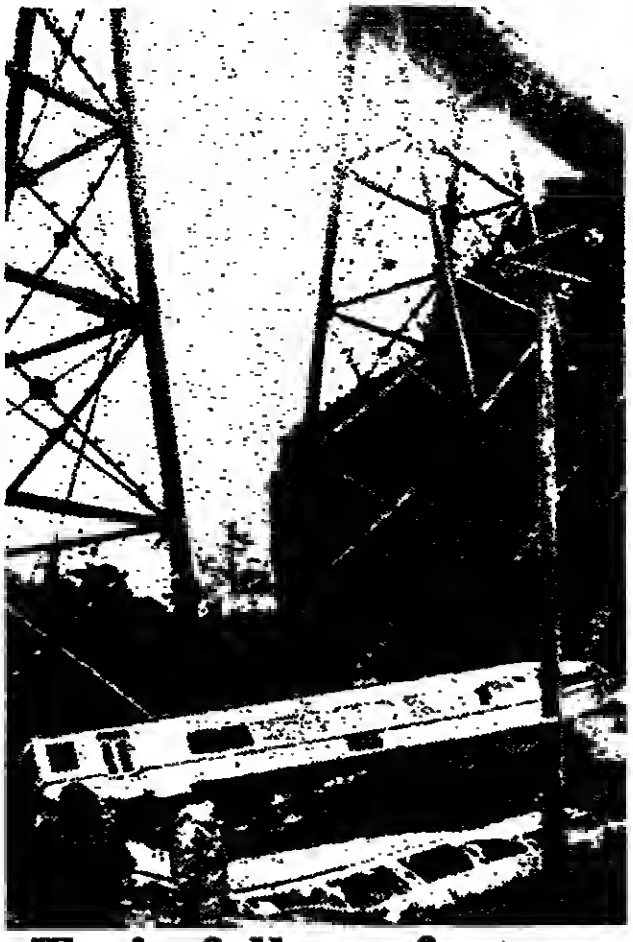
The paper said that he bought a British Airways return ticket and booked the outward-bound journey on flight BA 504 on Tuesday, September 30.

It was not known whether he travelled alone or accompanied, but before checking out of his London hotel he collected a telephone message left by a woman called Cindy which said: "I am waiting where we arranged to meet."

It has been suggested that Cindy may have been an Israeli agent.

Three hours before the plane's departure Mr Vanunu telephoned the *Sunday Times* insight team, to which he had revealed details of Israel's nuclear bomb-making facilities.

He said he would make contact again the next day, but within two hours of clearing customs in Rome he was picked up by Mossad, the Israeli secret service, the paper reported.



Train falls on factory

An excursion train that had just let off its 180 passengers yesterday plunged 135ft off a bridge, killing six people, most of them in a factory below, (AP reports from Tottori, Japan). Six-and-a-half carriages of the eight-carriage train fell off the bridge (above) "like match boxes... one after another, starting with the last car", a witness said. A National Railways official said a wind gust of up to 54 miles an hour was reported to have hit the train. Five of the dead and three of the injured were among 12 people working in a crab processing plant below the bridge.

Banks become competitive

Countdown to Budapest's 'Big Bang'

The communist equivalent to the Big Bang begins soon after the New Year champagne corks stop popping.

To Western observers, swamped by reports from the City and Wall Street about fortunes lost and won, Hungary's financial revolution may well seem small beer, more of a big whimper than a Big Bang. But from the point of view of a communist economy it is difficult to underestimate the importance of creating competitive commercial banks, the very engine of capitalism.

At the moment the Hungarian National Bank is the issuing bank - the equivalent of the Bank of England - and is also responsible for handing out loans in factories and industries.

All enterprises pay the same fixed interest and have no choice as to where to deposit their money. This is the standard communist practice: the bank is essentially part of the state machine.

From the New Year, five new commercial banks will be created and, though they will be given start-up capital, they will then have to generate their own income. That means banks will be able to offer different rates of interest and will actually have to scramble to be attractive to customers.

In theory at least, they can also become business partners with go-ahead companies (which since the early days of the Hungarian reforms have

Banks fighting for customers, unprofitable factories to be closed down, several hundreds of workers to be laid off in pursuit of a more streamlined economy: the great capitalist beast is straining at the leash in Hungary as it prepares on January 1 to embark on an extraordinary set of new reforms. As Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent reports, there are both opportunities and pitfalls awaiting the Hungarians.

Hungary's economy Part 1

had a considerable degree of autonomy from the central authorities).

The Hungarian National Bank will remain the central and reserve bank, keeping a monopoly on foreign exchange and the issue of the currency, the forint.

Some form of stock ownership will link the five new commercial banks with the national bank. The idea is to raise more capital.

Profitable companies are

burdened by debt repayments on new lending - the commercial banks are going to have to repay whatever they borrow.

Western bankers are already preparing for the Budapest Big Bang - Citibank has a well-established branch and others have been trafficking through the bureaucratic undergrowth - and Hungarian experts believe that the new freedom for banks will encourage joint ventures which always have notoriously complex banking arrangements.

But one of the main effects of the banking reform will be to give some bite to Hungary's bankruptcy legislation.

Last year some 260 companies were making a loss or were short of funds and 152.8 billion forints (£2.3 billion) were spent on assisting them.

Many of these companies should have gone to the wall. Instead the national bank, at the behest of the relevant ministries, bailed out almost all of them.

not using their earnings to good effect in Hungary, but under the new system they will be able to switch bankers (after a six-month grace period) to take advantage of better interest.

Also foreign banks will find it easier to lend to Hungary. That is good news for the state budget which will not be

Will commercial banks, which swim or sink on the question of profitability, be so generous? Most experts think not.

Hand in hand with the bank reform there is also a complete change in attitude to debt, profitability and responsibility.

Factory managers are themselves responsible for keeping their enterprises alive - not the supervisory ministries. Similarly it is banks who are responsible for making sure that there is good housekeeping in industry.

The developments on the bond market - the first in the communist world - follow this logic.

It is for banks and their clients to find capital.

Last year the value of bonds issued on the official market was about 400 billion forints (£270 billion). Thus the Budapest telephone system, to finance modernization, issued interest-bearing bonds which were picked up with the alacrity of British Gas shares, Sid or oo Sid.

From the New Year the State Development Institute, which shelters this budding stock market, will be issuing bonds to cover the state's budgetary deficit. That makes more sense than printing more money, the traditional Soviet bloc method of covering deficits.

Tomorrow: How the reforms bite.

● Banks will be able to offer different rates of interest and will actually have to scramble to be attractive to customers ●

Jerusalem editor gives up battle

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Akram Haniyeh, editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper *A-Shaab*, was deported from Israel yesterday after giving up his legal battle against an expulsion order issued by the military authority in the occupied territories.

Mr Haniyeh, whose case won support from many Israeli journalists as well as Arab ones, abandoned his appeal to the High Court because the bulk of prosecution evidence, alleging that he was an activist for the outlawed PLO was kept a secret so that he was unable to do anything to refute it.

In a statement issued before he was deported he said: "I am the victim of political revenge for my struggle as a political person, as a journalist and as a writer, to achieve the legitimate right of my people.

"Those who consider that

the policy of deportation will undermine the just struggle of our people for independence and peace are mistaken. My deportation... will not change our just and legitimate rights including the vested right to remain in our land."

Mr Haniyeh's lawyers both tried to persuade him to continue the case, which they regarded as raising important questions of precedent.

Like other East Jerusalem editors, Mr Haniyeh has never disguised his support for the PLO.

● Moratorium sought: The Mayor of Bethlehem, Mr Elias Freij, called over the weekend for a year's moratorium "by land, by sea, by air, by knives, guns and pistols, by everything" to create a better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians "who are destined to live together" (Ian Murray writes).



Mr Haniyeh: never disguised his support for the PLO.

Husain and Mubarak in pre-summit talks

Amman (Reuters) - King Husain of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt met yesterday for the second time in five weeks in what diplomats said was an attempt to form a common stand for next month's Islamic conference in Kuwait.

Both leaders are expected to attend the January 26 summit of the 46-member Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), when the Iraq-Iran war, fighting in Lebanon and the Middle East peace issue are likely to be leading topics of discussion.

Mr Ihab Wahbi, the Egyptian Ambassador, said that King Husain and President Mubarak held a working lunch at the King's seaside palace in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, but gave no details.

President Mubarak arrived earlier on an overnight visit to Jordan with his wife Suzanne. Mr Ahmed Frenat Abdel-Maguid, his Foreign Minister,

and Mr Osama Baz, a top political adviser.

King Husain, attempting to forge a unified Arab policy for the Islamic summit, visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait last week, while Mr Taher al-Masri, the Jordanian Foreign Minister, also went to Cairo.

The King has also campaigned for an Arab summit, but Mr Masri said in Cairo it would be difficult to convene such a meeting "under present circumstances". Egypt and Jordan back Iraq in its war against non-Arab Iran and have closely co-ordinated policy on Middle East peace efforts.

But President Mubarak has so far gained little in his attempts to reconcile King Husain and Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman, who parted company last February in disagreement on how to approach the peace issue.



The last great aviation challenge.

When Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager touched down in the Voyager on 23rd December they had achieved what generations of aviators have only dreamed of. They had flown around the world non-stop without refuelling.

The Voyager, described as "a flying fuel tank," had to fly at least 36,786 km to establish the official record. A flight of that distance without refuelling meant that the weight of every item aboard had to be minutely considered. Every gram counted. But so did reliable time-keeping. Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager made certain that they allowed for the extra 190 gm contributed by their Rolex Chronometers.



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THE ARTS

The man accompanied by Brahms

In this extract from his forthcoming book Continuo, the American composer and teacher Robert Storer reminisces about his strange partnership with the legendary Latvian-Jewish tenor Hermann Jadlowker



A broad staircase on the inside of the building led up to the Jerusalem Conservatoire, and one afternoon in 1940 a well-dressed older man, tall, thin, and with a proud bearing, walked up those steps and entered the office of the school. The students who happened to be around that afternoon — I was among them — watched with great fascination and curiosity. We could not imagine what a man with his looks, attire, and manner could be doing in our school. As soon as he left, we rushed into the office to question the secretary. Who was this man and what did he want? We were told that his name was Hermann Jadlowker, that he had been a very famous tenor in the early part of the century, that he had sung under the direction of Gustav Mahler and at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and had participated in the world premiere of Richard Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos; and that Kaiser Wilhelm had called him "my Lohengrin". He wanted to give concerts again and was looking for an accompanist — someone young, good at sight-reading, willing to work. Previous experience was not necessary.

This was a very exciting proposition, and several young pianists showed up at the auditions a few days later. The head of the Conservatoire was present, as were several piano teachers and, of course, Hermann Jadlowker, who sat quietly through the entire proceeding and never let on what he thought. We all waited outside, and a few minutes after the last pianist had left the room the head of the Conservatoire came out to announce that Jadlowker had chosen me.

At that time, I was 16 and living with three other music students, two from Germany and one from Czechoslovakia, in a two-room apartment just outside Jerusalem. Our landlord was a Jew from Kurdistan — an Oriental, as we called every non-European — who did not mind what we did as long as we paid our rent. Our constant practising did not bother him, nor did the fact that our apartment was never cleaned. There was no refrigerator, and to keep the ants out of our food we stored it on a table each leg of which stood in a plate full of water. My elder sister, who was attending an agricultural school near Kfar Saba to learn to become a useful member of a kibbutz, once came for a visit, and when she saw the place she quickly turned around and left.

What a contrast to the apartment where I had my first meeting with Hermann Jadlowker! It was his niece's apartment at Rehavia, one of the nicest sections of modern Jerusalem. There was a Blüthner grand piano, which he must have brought with him from Germany, and books in many languages, and much music. It was a cultured, civilized atmosphere such as I had not encountered since I left my parents' home in Vienna.

Jadlowker told me that we would meet twice a week at first, perhaps more often later, and that he would pay me five piastres per session. (There were a hundred piastres to the English pound.) We began to work immediately. He put a volume of old Italian arias on the piano, held a second copy in his hand (he never looked over my shoulder), and we went through a number of those arias. He walked up and down the rather large room, usually just "mark-

ing" the music, but occasionally singing in full voice.

Jadlowker's Blüthner responded to the slightest touch of the finger, to the slightest whim of the musical imagination. He and I went over much musical repertoire during the following weeks: Handel, whom he loved; a little Bach, most of whose vocal writing he considered unsuitable for himself; German lieder from Schubert to Mahler, with particular stress on Brahms; some arias from Italian and Russian opera (he was born in Riga and, as a Latvian, he knew Russian); some Hebrew folk-songs; and tidbits from here and there. Although he had been the Kaiser's favourite Lohengrin, he would sing no more Wagner.

My room-mates were much interested in my work with Jadlowker, all aspects of it. When I told them that he wore a different suit at each rehearsal, that he always wore a necktie, and that he had a handkerchief tucked in his breast pocket showing only a corner and carefully matching his tie, they almost did not believe me. It was so different from what we saw around us. Even Ben-Gurion, already then a man of great prominence, never wore a necktie, not even on the most formal occasions. Our interest in Jadlowker's world went much deeper, though, than mere appearance. What did he symbolize to us, four European teenagers separated from their parents and homes, transplanted into a world of Arabs, Jews from strange countries, and Britons, and held together by our burning desire to make music our profession? His propriety, courtesy, and orderliness represented our parents' world to us. I know he did it to me. We envied him his experience, musical and other — his rich, successful life. We admired him for wishing to make a new start in surroundings he must have found as tryingly different from the past as we did.

When Hermann Jadlowker first engaged me, he told me that it would be part of my job to correct him. I did not take that seriously. First of all, I did not believe that he would make mistakes, and, besides, how could a world music student correct a more-famous singer?

The first time he made a mistake, I did not have the courage to speak up. I quickly tried to change the accompaniment to fit what he was singing. He noticed, though, and stamped his foot in anger. "Why did you not stop me? You are supposed to tell me when I make a mistake. That's what I am paying you for." I understood then that he meant it and that he did expect me. He was going over old repertoire, music he might not have looked at in years — he had sung mostly 19th-century opera all his life — and when he did make mistakes he preferred to be corrected by a young person rather than by some old vocal coach, or Korrepetitor, as such people were called. From that moment on, I became more his collaborator than his accompanist. The five piastres an hour he gave me were good pay in my circumstances. With that you could buy 50 oranges or a bag of olives — or the open fruit market. It was also considerably more than I got for giving piano lessons, most of them to unwilling children who had to be cajoled or coerced into playing.

One day, Jadlowker announced that he now felt ready to give a recital. From that day on, we met more frequently and discussed each song, as we went over it, in terms of its suitability for the planned programme. In putting together the programme, Jadlowker always chose the opening and the closing song for each group first. After these were set, he dealt with what came between. There his considerations were guided by contrast and variety of mood, tempo, and even key. While he often consulted me, the final choice was truly his.

When the chief selections had been chosen, he said he would sing the entire German group — it was substantial — in Hebrew. "But why?" I asked shyly from the keyboard. "I want my entire audience to understand what I am singing," he said, "and I don't like to sing in Hitler's language." I wanted to say that the language itself was not our enemy, only the man, but I did not.

I knew his convictions were strong, that a different opinion from someone so young might be resented.



Stars of the show: the little mice and their mother in the polichinelles' dance

One curious thing has become apparent in transferring London Festival Ballet's new Nutcracker from its Plymouth premiere to its longer-term home at the Festival Hall. This is that, perhaps unintentionally, Peter Schaufuss's production has made the mice the stars of the show.

They have much more to do than in other productions, what with his interpolation of some extra (far from relevant) Hoffmann narrative into Act I, and giving them the polichinelles' dance in Act II besides. Also, theirs are the most successful of David

Walker's costumes, and during this Festival Hall season they have extra exposure by taking collecting boxes for Festival Ballet's funds into the audience during the intermission. So they get the warmest applause at the end, and deserve it.

As a producer, Schaufuss tends to saddle himself with crack-brained theories which, surprisingly for a man of his experience, have more of the study than the theatre about them. The result in this instance is a congested plot stuffed with unnecessary and often unintelligible detail. That said, he carries out his ideas quite efficiently in terms of staging, and he could easily improve it in future Christmas seasons simply by cutting many of the innovations. But his actual choreography

collar on my shirt, it reminded me of the wedding pictures of my parents. I had never thought I would be attired like that.

The concert was to take place in Haifa, a city looked down upon by the more cultured Jerusalemites. Later, we were to give the same programme at the Tel Aviv Museum, in Jerusalem, and in some smaller places. At that time, Haifa had no concert hall. The manager who scheduled and arranged our concert had rented a movie house — a huge, ugly place meant to be visited only in the dark. The afternoon of the concert, we went to Haifa in a taxi — Palestine was not a large country — and changed into our dress suits in a back room of the movie house. If Jadlowker found the facilities primitive compared with what he had been used to, he never showed it.

At 8.30 sharp, he walked out on the stage, with me a few steps behind. The name Jadlowker must have meant something to the inhabitants of Haifa: the movie

house was completely filled. He acknowledged the warm greeting with a slight nod of his head and turned to me. I played the introduction to the old Italian aria he had chosen to open the programme with, and he sang it quite *sotto voce*. He needs to warm up a little, I thought. Next came a Handel aria. I played the opening ritornello, and he did not come in when he should have. I played it again, and he came in two bars too soon. Was it possible for a singer of his experience to suffer from stage-fright? If so, he overcame it quickly and then sang his German group — Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, and Mahler, all in Hebrew. We walked offstage, and he thanked me for having covered up for his little mishap in the Handel.

The next piece on the programme was Lenky's aria from Tchaikovsky's opera Eugene Onegin, a rather lengthy and very beautiful piece of music, which encompasses a great variety of moods and emotions. It was only then that I began to see who Jadlowker had been and still was. In front of my eyes and the eyes of two thousand others, he became Lenky; he transformed that ugly hall into an elegant European opera house with the sheer magic of his personality. I was so totally under the spell of his dramatic power, conviction, and intensity that I quite forgot where I was and what was supposed to do. I was so overwhelmed, in fact, that I simply forgot to play at one point and just stared at him. He turned around and looked at me sternly, and I played again. This has never happened to me since — not on a stage, anyway.

When he finished the aria, there was that moment of absolute silence which shows that an audience has been deeply moved, and then there came thunderous applause, shouts of "Bravo!" and of relief from the tension in which he had held them for so long. After the concert, everyone present, it seemed to me, wanted to tell Jadlowker how much it had meant to them. They also told him where they had heard him last — a great many places were named and what he had sung. Many spoke to him in German, some in Russian, and a few in Hebrew.

Several people came to me to tell me how lucky I was to be so near greatness at such a tender age. I did not need to be told.

When everyone had left, the manager took us to our hotel, the old Zioo Hotel, halfway up Mt Carmel. For some reason, a single room had been reserved for us, with two large beds right next to each other. I shuddered slightly at the idea of sleeping practically in the same bed with the old man, but neither of us was thinking of sleep just then. Jadlowker put on his pyjamas — the most elaborate silk-brocade pyjamas I had ever seen — and walked up and down the room as he had done at all our rehearsals. He was elated — much too excited to sleep. He was the Kaiser's Lohengrin again, not the refugee who had sung in a Haifa movie house. He remembered Richard Strauss, Gustav Mahler, and even Brahms, for whom he had sung as a youth. He spoke of Strauss, under whose baton he had sung often, as a very thorough, accurate conductor, so whom one could absolutely rely. Perhaps a little too matter-of-fact for Jadlowker's taste. He had seen him play cards during the intermission of a concert, and I gathered from Jadlowker's tone of voice that he

did not quite approve of that. Mahler, on the other hand, was much more emotional, he said. He was also somewhat superstitious, and occasionally gave a penny to his singer before a performance for good luck.

I wanted to hear more about Brahms. It seemed quite unreal to me that I should be in the same room, almost in the same bed, with a man who had sung for Brahms. Jadlowker had settled in his bed by then. "Brahms had a rather large pot-belly," he said, "and he kept his foot on the pedal a lot." I had not played much Brahms, but the thought did occur to me that night that a protruding belly might account for why the left hand and the right in his piano writing often seemed so far apart. The detail about the pedal did not surprise me.

I never heard Jadlowker speak so much and so freely. I did not want him to stop talking ever. I felt that through listening to him I somehow knew these men myself — me who until then had been just names in books and in the title-pages of music to me. I also felt that through Jadlowker, through having made music with him, I had entered into a chain of musical continuity, and that if I were someday to tell this to someone else he or she would also become part of it.

"How did you get to sing for Brahms?" I asked him. "You must have been terribly young at the time."

"I was indeed very young," he said. "Not much older than you are now. And I got only sang for Brahms, I sang with him. He actually played for me."

"How did that happen?" "Well, I was studying voice in Vienna at the time. My teacher was Dr Gänsbacher — you won't know his name — and he was a personal friend of Brahms. One day, Brahms came to visit Gänsbacher when I was in the middle of a voice lesson. Gänsbacher told him he thought I had a future, and Brahms asked to hear me. After the first song — a Brahms song, of course — he simply sat down at the piano and played the next one himself."

I knew this was my first, and perhaps my only, chance to ask him anything I wanted to know. I said, "I know Kaiser Wilhelm made you a Kammeränger — a singer of the imperial chamber — but when did he call you 'my Lohengrin'?"

"He came on stage after a performance at the Belin Opera House," Jadlowker said, "and he put his arm around my shoulders, and said to the audience, 'This is my Lohengrin.'"

"Was it your favourite part?" "Well, it's more in this story. A year or so later, the Tsar of Russia — Riga was part of Imperial Russia then — came to Berlin on a state visit. There was a performance of Lohengrin at the opera house, and I had been asked to visit the two monarchs in their box during intermission. When I entered the box, the Kaiser presented me to the Tsar. 'This is my Lohengrin,' he said. 'He may be your Lohengrin,' the Tsar replied, 'but he is still my subject.'"

I wished the night would go on and on, but suddenly Hermann Jadlowker was quiet. I turned towards him and saw in the dim light that he had fallen asleep.

Extracted from *Continuo: A Life in Music*, by Robert Storer, to be published early next year by Andre Deutsch.

Puccini power

On Saturday we had *Callas Sings Tosca* (Channel 4) at Covent Garden, and yesterday *Madama Butterfly* (BBC2) from La Scala; it would only have taken a repeat of the Pavarotti *Turandot* for the weekend to turn into a Puccini heaven.

TELEVISION

Filmed in glowing black and white in 1964, Zeffirelli's account of Act II was distinguished by superb playing from Callas and Tito Gobbi, and one was left marvelling that they put so much meticulous detail into their acting while still singing fit to split the plaster. Callas's slow espial of the fatal knife among the wine-glasses was a genuinely unnerving moment.

Callas did have the advantage of being cast to type (an opera-singer playing an opera-singer); so did the Japanese soprano Yuzuko Hayashi in *Madama Butterfly*, and the born-again Christian James Fox played an idealistic Pilgrim Father in *New World* (BBC1).

This *Everyman* special was a simple tale of simple folk in the 1620s, striving to live according to their consciences and also perhaps make a few

bob on the side. That at least was the philosophy of the Bernard Hill faction, while the James Fox faction clung steadfastly to the kind of mentality wherein all was held in common and the noble savage was also God's creature. "We're building something new here," quoth Mr Fox. "Something good", he went on. "Let it have a chance", he concluded.

Well, one gave it two hours and one enjoyed the scenery and the costumes, but the script's scalding good. Intentionally made it seem as if the Archbishop of Canterbury had dreamt it all after an ecclesiastical supper. One prayed (if that is the right word) for a stroke of imagination to lift the thing out of its reconstructed rut — a time-traveller, say, passing round photographs of the Bronx and advising the pilgrims to think again.

The lead performances were agreeably tart and there was a vivid cameo from Joss Ackland as a pious hypocrite, but William Nicholson's dialogue could have come from the *Good News Bible*. The music came from a synthesizer; but then most music does.

Martin Cropper

Just a pretext for burlesque

No date in the theatrical calendar is more reassuring than the Players' Christmas panto. Above ground, God-zilla-like musicals may be rampaging through the West End and tickets be reduced to micro-dot hieroglyphics. But down in the bowels of Villiers Street, with Vestries and Dan Leno looking down from the walls, everything remains unchanged. The place still shakes with passing trains, as customers raise their glasses to toast the Queen (Victoria, of course), confident that they will not hear a note written later than Mr Bishop's most recent hit.

THEATRE

King Charming Players

changed into a bird (very handy for coloratura-flute duties) and every move in the narrative is the cue for another collaboration between Planchét the lyricist and the composers of *Trovatore* and *Norma*.

Irving Wardle

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DANCE The Nutcracker Festival Hall Walker's costumes, and during this Festival Hall season they have extra exposure by taking collecting boxes for Festival Ballet's funds into the audience during the intermission. So they get the warmest applause at the end, and deserve it. As a producer, Schaufuss tends to saddle himself with crack-brained theories which, surprisingly for a man of his experience, have more of the study than the theatre about them. The result in this instance is a congested plot stuffed with unnecessary and often unintelligible detail. That said, he carries out his ideas quite efficiently in terms of staging, and he could easily improve it in future Christmas seasons simply by cutting many of the innovations. But his actual choreography John Percival

Just a pretext for burlesque No date in the theatrical calendar is more reassuring than the Players' Christmas panto. Above ground, God-zilla-like musicals may be rampaging through the West End and tickets be reduced to micro-dot hieroglyphics. But down in the bowels of Villiers Street, with Vestries and Dan Leno looking down from the walls, everything remains unchanged. The place still shakes with passing trains, as customers raise their glasses to toast the Queen (Victoria, of course), confident that they will not hear a note written later than Mr Bishop's most recent hit. Planchét is this year's author, which means that the plot will have to fight its way through a jungle of Shakespearean quotation and word-games as well as the standard consignment of groan puns. Emerging somewhat winded through these obstacles is the story of the transvestite monarch's courtship of Florina, the beautiful daughter of King Henpeck the Hundred; it ends in wedding bells despite the ruthless efforts of Henpeck's wife Tyrana to pair Charming off with her graceless Troutina. Along the way, Planchét hits no some nicely turned incidents — such as conjuring a pack of devils, each one named after a different brand of tea; or giving the heroine a basket of magic eggs, each of which explodes with a gratifying flash and transforms the scene (Reginald Woolley manages some stunning transformations on the tiny stage). But as always the story is chiefly a pretext for burlesque: in which Charming (Felicity Jae Goodson) also gets to play Romeo. Othello and the mad Hamlet besides being

A Times campaign this year focused attention on the problems created by soaring house prices. Today we look at the results

How housing was forced into the open

● In September, *The Times* launched its "Home Front" series — an investigation into the sometimes cruel impact of rising house prices (see pages, right). The series focused national attention on the crisis and, along with the Duke of Edinburgh's report on housing, led to a more uninhibited debate of the problems. Since then there have been significant political and commercial initiatives which promise to go some way towards easing the difficulties.

● Public attention has been focused on mortgage lenders whose lending criteria were growing too lax, thereby helping to swell a disturbing increase in repossessions.

● The Treasury is relaxing its opposition to the mix of public and private finance to provide rented housing.

● Guidelines designed to prevent building societies from taking too many risks with investors' deposits are soon to be issued by the newly formed Building Societies Commission.

● Housing associations and building societies report growing enthusiasm for shared-ownership schemes.



● Next month, the Law Commission is to publish its report on protecting buyers from gazumping, recommending the voluntary payment of a deposit by both vendor and buyer before exchange of contracts.

● The Law Commission has called for an urgent overhaul of mortgage laws and consumer protection rules to give greater protection to borrowers.

● A new "right to buy" publicity campaign will be launched by the Government in the new year, encouraging council tenants to buy their homes and offering bigger discounts for those buying their flats.

● The Government is backing the "right to rent", encouraging people to rent, and is extending its assured tenancy scheme.

● Through the Housing Corporation, a major government initiative is supplementing public funding by supporting schemes using 30 per cent public money and 70 per cent private funds.

● An all-party campaign called on the Government to increase the financing of housing associations, which have already been given bigger grants for building and redevelopment.

● The Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre raised enough money — thanks to *The Times* series — to launch a nationwide "hotline" offering help to home-owners in arrears.

● Fifty High Street housing advice centres will be set up by the Government.

These represent a few steps towards resolving a problem which still requires urgent action. At a time when the Home-Builders Federation is warning that first-time buyers are being priced out of the market, we report on ways of taking some of the sting out of setting up home.



On to the first rung

A relatively little known way to take the sting out of home-buying is the shared ownership scheme. Two families, who discovered the scheme almost by accident, are the Macdonalds and the Moodys.

Brian Macdonald and his wife Teresa tried for some time to move on to the housing ladder from the Tower Hamlets council flat in East London in which they had lived for five years, and they suffered the frustrations faced by thousands of first-time buyers.

First they were gazzumped on one property they could have afforded, and then found that other suitable houses for the family — they now have four children — were too expensive. They had been hoping to buy, and saved as much as possible, but, as Mr Macdonald explained: "House prices were rising faster than I could save, and it was getting harder to find anywhere."

They looked at a house in Stratford, in the neighbouring borough of Newham, but to buy that without sufficient savings meant a big mortgage with payments of more than £500 a month which Mr Macdonald, a contracts manager with a shopping company, could not afford.

After reading an item in the local newspaper about a shared ownership scheme in nearby Bow, the Macdonalds were put in touch with the Boleyn and Forest Housing Society, an offshoot of the East London Housing Association.

paying rent for the remaining 10 per cent of the value of the house, which cost £42,500. The 25-year mortgage was split half and half between the current variable interest rate and a 4 per cent index-linked rate, which means paying £190.48 for the former and £102.05 for the index-linked part, a total of £292.53. Rent was assessed at £133.32 per annum, which with management costs gives a monthly rent of £22.90, and total outgoings for the house of £315.43.

Having done that for a year, the Macdonalds are now going ahead to purchase the remaining 10 per cent — a process known as "staircasing". Until recently many owners were reluctant to commit them-

selves to buying outright because they could lose the beneficial index-linked part of the mortgage. That is now not the case, so the Macdonalds will add the last 10 per cent to the conventional part of the mortgage as they must, which will increase that part of the mortgage to £242.45.

The house had to be valued for this transaction. The District Valuer said it was worth £52,500, an increase of more than 20 per cent in just over a year. The building society gave a figure of £54,000 — and a local estate agent put it at £60,000.

Mr Macdonald believes he was fortunate to find out about the shared ownership scheme. "It does not seem to be well known or well publicized. I think it should be advertised more widely."

His main problem, now that he is a total house-owner, is one all others know about — the rates. His bill from Newham council is more than £1,000 a year.

The second couple, Mr and Mrs Tony Moody, admit that they are not great savers. "We live for today," said Mrs Moody, a 32-year-old computer operator.

So when they were about to get married two years ago and were looking for a home in the London docklands area, they had no savings behind them. They were looking for something under £35,000, without success.

Then they heard about a shared ownership scheme worked out by the Nationwide Building Society and the East London Housing Association which would enable them to buy a two-bedroom cottage-style semi in nearby West Beckton for nearly £2,000 more than they thought they could afford.

"We both earn good money (Tony, aged 36, is a self-



House ownership at last: Brian and Teresa Macdonald at home with two of their children, John and Michelle

employed lorry driver) but we wanted our mortgage to be based on just one of our wages," she said. This was because they wanted to start a family immediately.

Under the scheme their total monthly payments, excluding rates, are now £278. Of this £258 goes to Nationwide to repay a £33,210 mortgage on 90 per cent of the initial value of their home.

Half the loan is a traditional repayment mortgage, and to keep monthly instalments as

low as possible for the first few years the other half is funded by a cheaper "index-linked" mortgage adjusted regularly to take account of the prevailing inflation rate. The latter currently works out at about 7 per cent. According to a Nationwide spokeswoman, this arrangement is about £50 a month cheaper than a full, conventional 90 per cent mortgage.

The other 10 per cent is paid to East London in the form of a monthly rent of about £20.

Cardiff leads the way

The prototype for the Government's initiative to mix public and private funds on housing developments, and its "right to rent" policy, is a £15 million Treasury-approved scheme in Cardiff, where the Conservative-controlled Cardiff City Council, two housing associations and the Halifax Building Society are combining to provide up to 700 houses on a 36-acre site.

The houses will be let on "assured tenancies", which give security of tenure but are free of rent control and are

based on "fair rents" which rise with inflation.

Until now, any scheme involving private-sector finance received no Housing Corporation grant, but the breakthrough is that the public stake will be around 30 per cent, leaving the private sector to provide the remaining 70 per cent.

The Labour-controlled Hounslow council in west London has sold 21 acres of land to a consortium which is to build the largest mixed-tenure housing scheme in Britain. Of 422 new homes on the site, which is to the south

of Heathrow airport, 127 will be for rent and the remainder sold at less than the market value.

Hounslow council sold the land to a consortium of six housing associations for £3 million, and the cost will be met by the Housing Corporation, three building societies, and the London Area Mobility Scheme funded by London boroughs. The council will nominate people on its waiting list to all the types of housing, which means it will be encouraging some who have applied to rent a home from the council to buy one.

HELP AT HAND FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS

The first step on to the housing ladder is becoming more of a leap for more and more people. Sales of houses to first-time buyers in 1986 are likely to be in line with figures which show a decline from 64 per cent in 1982 to 34 per cent in 1985.

It is a bleak prospect, and one that is unlikely to change dramatically unless more land can be released for building, along with increased renting and shared ownership facilities.

Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0AR.

The Home Loan Scheme — an almost unpublicized scheme set up by the Labour Government in 1978 — offers a tax-free bonus of up to £110 and a five-year interest-free loan of £600. There is an argument for increasing the benefits of this scheme be-

cause it has not kept pace with inflation, but the Government has no plans to do so. Forms are available from building societies and savings banks.

Some builders still offer package deals, which can include free legal services, fittings and equipment, and 100 per cent mortgages. There is a danger here if the buyer should need to move within a few years because it can become difficult to sell without making a loss and failing to recoup the value of the pack-

'Competition to capture first-timers'

age. However, it can provide the answer for a patient buyer. Write to the New Homes Marketing Board, 82, New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AD.

The Government is enthusiastic about shared ownership, operated through housing associations, in which the buyer owns part of the house and rents the rest. Write to the National Federation of Housing Associations, 175, Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

Building societies and banks offer advice, and the Nationwide, now to merge with Anglia, has just published a step-by-step guide, "The Home Buyers Handbook". The society's rule-of-thumb loan policy is three times the main income plus the amount of a second income. The booklet is available from Nationwide branches.

The New Homes Marketing Board, an offshoot of the Home-Builders Federation, exists to encourage people to buy new houses, and gives advice on where developments are under way, where houses are available and what they cost.

Times reporting team:
Jack Crossley,
Christopher Warman,
David Cross and
Michael Dynes

Cream tip No. 50

Make some midwinter magic.

Yuletide Chicken.

Take a break from this month's hectic pace with this simple chicken dish. Arrange 4 chicken portions in a shallow baking dish. Blend 150ml (1/4 pint) fresh Single Cream with half a can of condensed mushroom soup. Stir in a little crushed garlic, salt and pepper and then pour over the chicken. Bake at 180°C (350°F), Mark 4 for 45 minutes. Serve with jacket potatoes and salad. You'll want to make this magic long after Yuletide's gone!

Get fresh with the cream this Christmas.



That was the Year that wasn't



They say no cause can be considered truly lost until it has had a year devoted to it, and in 1986, Britain's "industrial revolution" has proved no exception. But as Industry Year marches into 1987 under the new banner of "Industry Matters", for a scaled down continuation of the campaign, what of all the other incarnations of 1986? What really was the year that was?

1986 was Industry Year, Energy Efficiency Year, European Road Safety Year, National Bat Year and International Year of Peace. More modestly, next year is so far designated International Year of Shelter for Homeless People and, from March, European Year of the Environment. Unless of course, you know better. It seems there is nothing to stop you calling 1987 whatever you please, although if you want anybody to know about it you will need more than a little publicity-seeking muscle, and preferably an organization or so behind you.

It is unlikely, of course, that you will be able to muster the clout of, say, the United Nations — over 150 member states from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. It was the UN that

brought you "Peace" in 1986 and "Shelter" for 1987, not to mention Years of Education in 1970, Women in 1975, and Youth in 1985.

The coming year, in fact, marks the 30th anniversary of the Year to begin all Years; now seen as the beginning of a trend which snowballed, International Geophysical Year took place in 1957. Organized by the World Meteorological Office (WMO), it ran, illogically, from July 1 1957 to December 31 1958. Its practical endeavour was to centralize, standardize and publish the meteorological observations of the WMO's 97 member states.

After that came World Refugee Year 1959, World Mental Health Year in 1960, and International Health and Medical Research Year in 1961. As the motivating effects of a fixed time to focus on became apparent, and with any organization entitled to propose a Year, scarcely a Christmas went by without a new worthy cause waiting on the horizon.

As early as 1968 there were rumblings from the UN's Economic and Social Council that things were getting out of hand. A decade later the Council had managed to provoke a resolution from the General Assembly to "instruct its subsidiary bodies to propose the designation of international years only on the most important occasions,

and where possible, to propose instead, celebrations of brief duration."

It made no difference. The very next year, in 1979, the world was celebrating two UN Years at the same time, the International Year of the Child and the International Year of Solidarity with the People of Namibia. As for "celebrations of brief duration", today we are now in the midst of no less than eight full-scale "Decades" ranging from the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade to the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

Who is to say, however, that the more is not the merrier? Keith Howes was both information officer at the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981 (which became a Decade), and consultant director of the much-trumpeted British Film Year in 1985.

He believes that Years, properly run, can be "revolutionary". They raise expectations by being paradoxically "essentially anti-establishment even if they have been backed by the establishment."

The end of the Year should not be a time for celebration, Howes says. "If it is successful, it should leave an uncomfortable feeling among the organizations involved, because they will have had to face things they didn't necessarily want to." Whether it is mothers of the handicapped

wanting to raise their children in the community, or people wanting an arts cinema, problems aired don't go away.

Years are often looking for radical changes. British Film Year was nominally "non-lobbying," but its name was used as a banner for protests on anything from cinema closures to lack of government financing for film production. As Howes says "It's like putting a spade in very dry soil — you have to churn things up."

With each Year, things seem to be churning a little longer. It is not only Industry

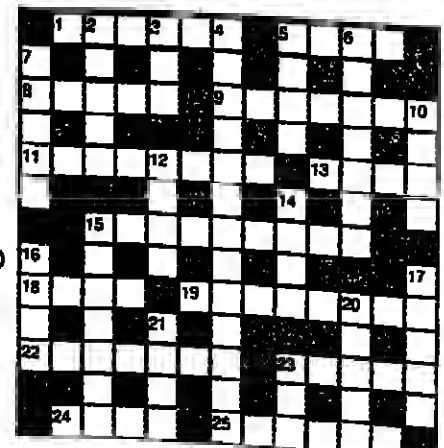
Year that doesn't want to end. British Film Year limped on to May 1986, long after its budget was exhausted. The government Efficiency Year, which claims to have had over 150,000 responses to its adverts, is keeping its hotline open till March and retaining its education programme in schools. Even National Bat Year flits on.

No wonder, then, if Chinese residents, preparing to honour 1987 Year of the Hare, choose to regard us as inscrutably polygamous.

Stephanie Billen
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1141

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cask (6)
 - 5 Silent (4)
 - 8 Due (5)
 - 9 Twining stem (7)
 - 11 Gently (8)
 - 13 Effervescence (4)
 - 15 Italian Thousand leader (9)
 - 18 Solitary (4)
 - 19 Aubergine (8)
 - 22 Nazi secret police (7)
 - 23 Organ theme (5)
 - 24 Detect (4)
 - 25 Nestle (6)



- DOWN**
- 2 Foreign (5)
 - 3 Local paper (3)
 - 4 Clobber defeat site (6,7)
 - 5 Head (4)
 - 6 Bus route ends (7)
 - 7 Uncertainty (5)
 - 10 Indolent (4)

- 12 Cull leader (4)
- 14 Smack (4)
- 15 First O.T. book (7)
- 16 Bullet (4)
- 17 Swift horse (5)
- 20 Divine messenger (15)
- 21 Alter (4)
- 23 Turkish cap (3)

Mike Harskin
Mike Harskin is Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate for Brent South, not a Liberal councillor as stated in *Spectrum* (December 15).

MONDAY PAGE

Under-aged, over the limit

Joe Bardsley, aged 15, is taking seven O levels next summer. He lives with his family in Wyrthing where his mother runs a drama school. About eight months ago he nearly killed himself with alcohol.

Alcohol kills 10 times more teenagers than heroin. So why, Jenny Woolf asks, are the statistics being ignored?

Joe and a friend drank most of it between them. "We went marching down the street drinking away, throwing stones. We smashed the vodka bottle, kicked a supermarket trolley around, then went down to the beach. I thought, I think I'm a bit too drunk. I remember sitting down and then that's all I remember."

Joe had not quite passed out. He fell flat on the concrete promenade, lacerating his hands and face. Then he got up, staggered into the road, and was run down by a passing cyclist. He was taken to hospital covered in blood and vomit. The time was 9pm, and until 5am next day Joe showed no reflexes of any kind. He took three weeks to recover.

He still has scars, and is chastened by the knowledge that if he had been left to "sleep it off" he could well have died of alcoholic poisoning or inhalation of vomit, thus joining the thousand other young people who die from alcohol each year.

"I'm a bit upset because I didn't know that drinking could kill people," he says. "They tell you about drugs at school and on television, but nobody tells you much about drinking. Everyone sort of accepts it."

Alcohol is Britain's third largest killer. It kills 10 times as many youngsters as heroin and cocaine combined. Two-thirds of drug-related deaths - such as Olivia Channon's - also involve alcohol.

In the last 10 years the use of alcohol has reduced the average life expectancy of Britain's 16 to 24-year-olds. Car crashes involving drunk drivers, for example, are the main cause of death of young people over 16.

The Government has spent £17 million fighting heroin and cocaine abuse. Apart from the annual drink-driving campaign, it has spent only £750,000 on campaigns against general alcohol abuse. It is spending precisely nothing on the fight against teenage drinking. Ironically, just one alcoholic beverage advertising campaign can cost more than £1 million.

Earlier this month the Government was forced to acknowl-

edge the extent of the teenage drinking problem. A Department of Health and Social Security inquiry among nearly 5,000 youngsters aged between 13 and 17, reported that 29 per cent of 13-year-old boys and 11 per cent of 13-year-old girls said they drank at least once a week. The proportion rose to 52 and 37 per cent respectively by the age of 15.

About one third of boys and a quarter of girls aged 13 said they had been "very drunk" at least once in the previous year. One in 10 of the 13-year-old boys said they

for young people to show off, but the differences between teenage drinking today and in the past lie in the age that they start, the advertising hard-sell they face and their lack of alternatives to the pub.

A nationwide survey by Exeter University reported that by the age of 11, 56 per cent of boys and 29 per cent of girls drank alcohol at least once a week. The Medical Council on Alcoholism found that in the previous year, 10 per cent of 15-year-old boys had, at least once, been so drunk that they could not remember what had happened.

The coffee bars where their parents met have disappeared and fast-food joints now kick out teenagers when they gather in groups. Young people soon discover which pub landlords turn a blind eye to under-age drinking - many places which can't attract adult customers need teenage custom to survive.

There are a few one-off alternatives to the pub - a "fun pub" in Manchester, and Worthing's Parrot and Palm cocktail club, a successful and profitable self-help no-alcohol place for 14 to 24-year-olds. Joe goes, and he says it's good, but most other towns have nowhere for older teenagers to go.

Joe says: "Ask a young person whether heroin or alcohol is more dangerous, and he'll say heroin, because he's seen the horror ads. So why don't we see drink ads about people setting themselves on fire or crashing their cars or choking to death on vomit?"

Alcohol-promoting advertisements are most disturbing, given the disastrous effects of drink on so many teenagers. Naturally, advertising men are sensitive to criticisms of their multi-million pound campaigns. They are, they say, always advising of the British Code of Advertising Practice, which forbids them to portray alcohol as attractive to under-18s. Many teenagers drink because they are tense with the opposite sex, and the code also forbids the association of sexual success with alcohol.

McCann Erickson's latest poster for Martini features a young bikini-clad body with the head omitted. Andrew Shingleton, the firm's advertising account director, said: "I don't really think there's any link between sexual attractiveness and our ad. Anyway, if people don't like it, they can always complain to the Advertising Standards Authority."

Don Steele, director of Action on Alcohol Abuse, the independently funded alcohol pressure group, has had long experience of objecting to the ASA about alcohol advertise-

precisely nothing has been spent to stop kids drinking

had committed acts of vandalism or attracted police attention after drinking too much.

Drug agencies working with youngsters report that teenagers are abusing alcohol in a way that has more in common with drug-taking than adult alcoholism. Andrew Fraser, director of Drug Advice and Information Service, a Government-funded drug agency in Brighton, says: "Young people drink in a different sort of way from adults. Adult alcoholics drink regularly and their problems are long-term - brain and liver damage, job loss, family breakup."

"Young people tend to have binges where they drink massive amounts. They may get into trouble with the law or face sudden disablement or death." Drinking too much is one way



Wendy Hills

TALKBACK

Twins and trouble

From Philippa Barton, Godfrey Street, London, SW3 3SX

The complacency of Mrs Joan Parkes reminding about rearing her twins in 1955 is really quite dreadful (Talkback, Monday Page, December 22). This is 1986 and on another page you report that even two years ago nearly two million children were living in families dependent on supplementary benefit, with the trend increasing.

Today's parents of twins, triplets, quads and more don't have to be single, unemployed or low-paid to suffer hardship because if they are any of those things their plight is even greater. For many of them the arrival of an instant family creates considerable stresses, not only financial but physical and emotional. We know a lot more about these stresses on family life than we did 30 or 40 years ago.

The existence of the Twins and Multiple Births Association (mention of which gave rise to Mrs Parkes's letter) is evidence of parents' need for support - would that there had been such an organization when our twins were born. Most families with multiple children do manage and can enjoy the tremendous fun generated by their simultaneous offspring - when they have time. The exceptions, such as the recent case in Catterick where the mother couldn't cope and the twins starved to death, are a tragic reminder of what some may suffer under pressure. The risk of a birth-damaged baby is greater with twins and more, though with better medical care many more survive; it may be the sibling(s) who experience as many problems as the handicapped child.

New fertility techniques have led to a great increase in the number of instant families. Ongoing research by the International Society for Twin Studies is producing a great deal of new information about the particular needs of families with multiple births.

But it isn't the myth of "double trouble" that concerns the parents. It's the wear and tear on family life, the enormous cost for at least 16 years of providing warmth, clothes, food, shoes, equipment, house-room, travel and everything else for several simultaneous children. Not to mention the physical and emotional stresses of sorting out relationships in such a complex situation with children who are the same yet different. Recent television programmes have illustrated the fact that marital partnerships do not always survive the experience. These are the realities - we can't all be as clever at managing as Mrs Parkes was 30 years ago.

problems and there are no Government-funded projects for young problem drinkers, despite the fact that the alcohol excise duty earns the Government £16,000 million a year.

Alcohol workers were dismayed at a recent television statement by the present junior health minister, Edwina Currie, that "Alcohol is one of the best things the Good Lord has given us." Since the DHSS report, however, she has said: "We recognize that alcohol used wisely and within the law is not harmful, but there is a need to safeguard our young people against the dangers of alcohol misuse."

Sir George Young says: "The Government should get its act together with a coherent policy on alcohol."

When you add up the thousand young people killed by alcohol last year, the several more thousands who were permanently disabled, and the millions more who face a future of dependency and health problems, it is hard to disagree with Sir George. But, as yet, there are few encouraging signs that the Government is about to do anything at all.

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ments. "By the time the ASA responds, the campaign's usually over," he says. "And it's almost impossible to prove that something for over-18s appeals equally to younger people."

The argument that drink advertisements are for over-18s certainly does not impress Joe. He says: "Whoever they are officially aimed at, they appeal to people who like pop music and going out with their friends, joking, wearing smart T-shirts - obviously people from about 13 up."

Sir George Young, who was junior health minister between 1979 and 1981, is considered by health education professionals to have made real efforts to tackle the problems of cigarettes and alcohol abuse. He says: "Young people kill themselves in a different way to older people, and one must tackle their problem differently. It's hopeless ordering them not to drink - you should try to get the message across that drinking isn't smart."

"The facts about alcohol should be readily available to them. I'm all in favour of hitting the advertising industry over the head a bit about this. There should be promotion of alternatives to going down to the

pub and getting plastered. There should also be a strategy on price, because if the price goes up, demand will fall.

"This package will cost money, but I have no idea how much. The first step should be a survey to find out what the situation is, then what it will cost."

Action on Alcohol Abuse is now seeking money to conduct such a

Alcohol has reduced the life expectancy of 16 to 24-year-olds

survey. It will not receive any Government funding. The Youth Service, which should be providing youngsters with alternatives to the pub, has no money and is demoralized. Most of the alcohol teaching material available to schools is sponsored by drinks companies, with the expected omissions and bias.

Most drug projects are not equipped to deal with alcohol

Not so great expectations

I asked a psychiatrist friend whether he would like to come round for a drink during this holiday season. He asked me if I was crazy - a stupid question since he should have been able to tell, one way or the other.

It appeared that he could not stomach a moment to gulp a glass of champagne and a stuffed mushroom because as the year ends, his busiest time begins. In fact, from Christmas Eve until January 2, he feels as though he is running the china department at Harrods, all by himself, on the first day of the sale.

For this is the season when people don't like themselves very much and like other people even less. In fact, they probably ring up their psychiatrists just to escape talking arms with their husbands for "Auld Lang Syne". Unfortunately, it is also the season when nobody is allowed to get into bed alone with only a glass of brandy, which is about the only thing that could make us feel that we could get through another day without crushing one of the Christmas tree ornaments and slicing our wrists with the shards.

It is all a matter of everything falling to live up to our expectations. Although, why we should expect food to be delicious, friends to stay sober and families to act upon our every desire just because it is the deep midwinter, I cannot think. I have got used to nothing living up to my expectations for fully 365 days a year, including myself, although still get very disappointed every time. I often leave the house feeling quite willowy, a feeling that melts away as soon as I stand next to somebody else. Publishers, who are the people I usually find myself standing next to, seem to average out at about six foot four. Something dictates that little boys brought up on good food and fresh air grow up to be important and strapping figures in the world of books.

PENNY PERRICK



They also force me to lower my expectations further by not offering me big bucks to go to the west of Ireland and produce a slim volume of short stories. Instead, they suggest a pittance to write multi-volume histories of the women's movement.

The way to keep one's expectations under control is not to look forward to anything, especially holidays and men, which, next to Christmas, are probably the two main areas which have women turning up at the neighbourhood psychiatric centre without an appointment. Just as long as one can keep things in perspective, one will not be destroyed by rain slushing down the ski slopes or food poisoning putting a stop to a gourmet tour of France. Now will one mind too much if a man who seemed more or less soigné at first meeting turns out to be 37 going on 12½. After all, what is a single evening, spent discussing white-walrus tyres, out of one's whole life? The unfortunate thing about expectations is that they are always zooming upwards without rhyme or reason, a sure recipe for tears before bedtime. For as someone once enigmatically but sagaciously remarked: "It's hard, when you've been promised the moon, to end up with a tin of fruit."

Jenni Murray becomes the new voice of Radio 4's Today

Jenni Murray was suffering from the broadcaster's nightmare, the heavy cold, but she hardly let it show as she presented *Woman's Hour* from Studio B9, in the howls of Broadcasting House. Listeners heard nothing of the coughs and the snuffles, only the warm, reassuring, professional voice.

She interviewed a studio guest about a campaign for maternity rights. The producer kept on about overrunning but at 3pm precisely, Jenni Murray wished her listeners goodbye, shed her headphones and another programme was over.

Another casually immaculate job. Jenni Murray could unwind and not realize about coughing over the air or, as she once did in her early days in local radio, collapse in a fit of giggles. She was doing a show called *Pets Phone-in* and a woman rang in about the toad in her garden. The creature was in the process of mating and had become stuck the wrong way up. All was described in intimate detail. Hearing the titers at the other end of the line, the caller said: "I do hope you realize this is very serious, Miss Murray." Too late, Miss Murray was by now in hysterics. The episode was taped and found its way on to the in-flight entertainment of British Airways.

From January 3, Jenni Murray will be putting toads behind her as she follows such luminaries as Jack de Manio, Brian Redhead and John Timpon as a regular presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme. She will set the alarm for 3am, drive through deserted London streets and, at a time of day most of us find indecent, be bright and articulate before up to three million listeners, who usually include Mrs Thatcher. Jenni Murray says *Today* is where she most wanted to be. "I have always listened to the programme, it has been part of my life, and suddenly there I am doing it." She is looking forward to the excitement and unpredictability of handling live news. She will launch the new Saturday edition with John Humphrys. The early start holds no fears and finishing at nine means she will see more of her family, especially her three-

Early bird joins the dawn chorus



Morning calls: a challenging career move for Jenni Murray

and-a-half-year-old son, Edward, "the ultimate handfuf". When she was expecting Edward, she was a presenter and reporter on the regional programme, *South Today*, in Southampton. She worked, visibly pregnant, almost right up to the birth, and was back on screen a few weeks afterwards. It produced the biggest crop of abusive mail she has ever received, mainly on the lines of "why aren't you at home looking after your baby?" and "can't your husband afford to keep you?" She was not just upset, she was furious. Furious that in 1983 people could still find it strange that a woman could go back to work after having a baby. "Some women are happy to stay at home and that's their choice. But it's not one I could ever make. And it is a terrible duty to expect a man to keep you."

was hardly compatible with family life so when Edward was born he decided to leave the Navy and now runs an art gallery in north London. Jenni Murray is 36, dark and jolly, and you would never guess from her lack of Yorkshire accent that she was born and bred in Barnsley. As a girl she vaguely wanted to be an actress, and she studied drama at Hull University.

Eventually, she came to the conclusion that she would be hard pressed to earn a living on the stage; her practical side took over. She set out to become a journalist and joined Radin Bristol as a copy-taker.

Within two years she was on the air with her own programme, five days a week and loving every minute. She moved to television to do regional programmes from Southampton, then became known nationally as a member of the *Newsnight* team.

Now she is concentrating on radio again and it is a conscious decision. "In television everything becomes so complex. It takes so much longer. In radio there is just an editor, a microphone and you. No one worries what you look like, and for a woman that is terribly important. On television the colour of your eyes becomes more important than what you are saying."

"Even my mother would ring up and say how nice my hair looked and I would say 'but what about the interview with Norman Tabbit?' And she couldn't remember a word of it. But on *Newsnight* I did several film reports from a woman's point of view and it was good to get letters from women, saying that at last women journalists were being taken seriously."

"Television still trivializes women. Look at Angela Rippon and her quizzes, or Selina Scott and her clothes show. Only Sue Lawley has really stuck it out in news. Or look at Julia Somerville. She was an industrial correspondent, for goodness sake. But she goes on the *Nine O'Clock News* and the make-up people get at her and she is looking more like Krystle Carrington every day."

Peter Waymark

TOMORROW

What will we be wearing in the 1990s? Designer Jean-Paul Gaultier reveals all...

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THE TIMES DIARY

Mills and Boom

The race to enrich our literary lions becomes ever more frantic. The administrators of the Betty Trask award have just announced that the prize money on offer in 1987 will surpass that of the coveted and infinitely more solemn Booker contest by £2,000. As readers of this column will recall, the "Trask" was set up with precisely the aim of according to young writers of romantic fiction a proper remuneration. The self-consciously literary Booker, which recently upped its lure from £10,000 to £15,000, must now look in its laurels if it is to retain its pre-eminence in the self-inflating fiction stakes, not only has the Trask acquired the services of novelist Monica Dickens as chairman of next year's panel of judges but the other major award, the Whitbread, has become the first to go through the £20,000 barrier, albeit to be shared between the winners of several sections. It cannot be long before the competition between the competitions becomes even more fervent than that between the entrants.

Coming up

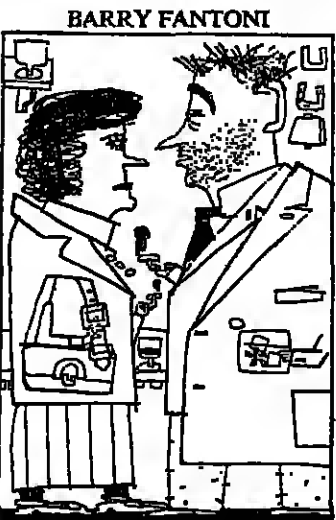
Kenneth Baker's strictures against sex education in the classroom are clearly not being heeded at the adult teaching level. Evening classes this spring at the Working Men's College in Crowndale Road, Camden, will include a 14-week programme on "Lesbian Existence", which the prospectus describes as offering, among other things, "validation and support to women just coming out". Rather *outré* for the working man, I would have thought, but perhaps the borough's residents will prove me wrong.

Bar one

The mood of liberalism which — so we are told — is sweeping Russia has yet to extend to airport officials. Arriving in Moscow for a short period of study, Professor Michael Freeman was divested at customs of William Butler's *Soviet Law*, the classic British work on the subject. Subsequently he discovered the same work, in English, on the shelves of prominent Moscow lawyers and on sale in bookshops, so I can only conclude that it is not quite so subversive after all.

Worlds apart

My story about Danny Abse's dismay at discovering his latest book of poems classified as "natural history" has been matched, if not trumped, by Colin White of Leeds. He writes to say that his book, *The World of the Nursery*, has been placed by his local bookshop among "atlases".



'It started out as a hangover and ended up as designer stibble'

Late warning

The RAF may be happy about the prospect of getting Avacs but its American counterpart is getting hot under the collar with Boeing, who make it. The problem, curiously, has a marked similarity to those of the Nimrod. The USAF is withholding more than \$250 million in progress payments to contractors involved with the B-1B strategic bomber programme because the offensive avionics are not coming up to expectations.

Horning in

We all know he's a literary polymath and a composer of no small note but I was still taken aback by the unequivocal cover of a recent Hutchinson paperback: ANTHONY BURGESS CARMEN An opera in four acts The title page provided reassurance: he had, after all, only done an English translation and written an introduction. Even so, his name is accorded larger type than the librettists, Melihac and Halévy, and even of Bizet himself.

Plainchant

In these days of contentious bishops, it is comforting to discover that knitting is the favoured out-of-church activity of the Bishop of Leicester, Richard Rutt. Such is his skill that he designed a special knitcap cardigan for the festive season. Entitled "Bishop's Jacket", its distinctive flower design is carried out in nine shades — misty pinks, blues, beige and grey. To pre-empt your enquiries, the pack comes from Rie's Wools in Holborn; all proceeds go to the Leicestershire Hospice charity, Loros; and it can be worn by either gender.

Robin Oakley on Mrs Thatcher's sustained exploitation of political honours

To Sir, for toeing the line



Charles Morrison and Robin Maxwell-Hyslop: one wet, the other a needle in the front bench flesh. Still Mr. and so they will probably remain

The Conservative Party, it has been said, is divided into those who wish to become ministers quickly and those happy to become knights slowly. And Mrs Thatcher is well aware of it.

In the New Year Honours list you can be sure that at least two, and probably four, Tory backbenchers will collect the distinctive handle which makes it just that little bit easier to get a table in a booked out restaurant or a position on the notepaper of an upwardly mobile company.

In the merry days of Harold Macmillan, Labour MP Willie Hamilton has calculated, knight-hoods or peerages for Tory MPs averaged one a month. In the 13 years of Tory rule which ended in 1964 a third of Conservative MPs collected some kind of political honour. Then came Harold Wilson, and despite that infamous dissolution honours list which did so much to destroy his reputation, he officially abolished "political honours" (though some continued under another name). No baronetries were created after Labour came to power that year and only five backbenchers (one of them a Tory) received knight-hoods between 1966 and 1970.

Edward Heath's period of four years in power saw only eight Tory

MPs gain knight-hoods (a contributory factor in his downfall) and during the second Wilson term only two knight-hoods went to backbenchers (one of them again a Tory). Not even in that controversial resignation list was there a backbench knight-hood for political services. And only in his resignation honours list did James Callaghan bestow his first equivalent of a political knight-hood, wickedly puncturing the left-wing credentials of Judith Hart by making her a Dame.

Contrast that with Mrs Thatcher's largesse. No fewer than 62 of those who were Tory MPs when she came to power in 1979 have received knight-hoods — some as a consolation for losing ministerial office but mostly as a reward for sheer survival and not upstaging the whips.

Of the Conservatives who entered the Commons before 1964, and who are still MPs only ten have not been knighted. Of those, seven are former Cabinet ministers and are now privy councillors, carrying with it the exalted prefix Right Honourable, and so do not need the extra label. Of the other three, two are prominent Wets, Charles Morrison and Norman Miscalpelt, and the third is

that master of the parliamentary small print, Westminster's leading barrack-room lawyer, Robin Maxwell-Hyslop. Definitely three members of the awkward squad.

Look next, as Mrs Thatcher and her advisers clearly did, at the 39 Conservatives who entered Parliament in October 1964. One is dead, 13 are out of the Commons and three have interrupted service. One is Mr Speaker Weatherill and another, Anthony Meyer, is a baronet anyway. Nine more have been ministers and are privy councillors. Of the remaining ten, eight have already been given knight-hoods. The two who have not are John Hunt and Dennis Walters, both prominent rebels on a number of issues.

The same pattern applies to the Tories who won by-elections in the period 1964-1970. Of the very early batch, only three are still in the Commons — Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Michael Hamilton and Reg Eyre, and all have collected their knight-hoods.

Or take the batch of 18 elected between 1966 and 1970. Seven are now out of the House and one has had interrupted service. Of the remaining ten, four have been ministers, one is a baronet, and three have already been knighted. The other two are Julian Amery

and Michael McNair-Wilson; neither is known for rebellious tendencies and both must be hoping for an honour this time around.

Among the Thatcher knights some, including Humphrey Atkins, Peter Baker, the late Anthony Berry, Hugh Rossi, Gerard Vaughan, Reg Eyre, Geoffrey Finsberg, the late Spencer Le Marchant, Adam Butler and Marcus Fox, received their distinction after ministerial service. But for the most part the honours has gone to loyalist Thatcher backbenchers, though an occasional maverick like stockbroker and Africa hand Peter Tapsell has broken the pattern.

Quite apart from recreating hereditary peerages for Viscount Whitelaw and Viscount Tony-pandy (the one with four daughters, the other a bachelor), Mrs Thatcher has awarded an average of eight knight-hoods for political service in every birthday and New Year honours list since 1979, and half of those have gone to MPs.

There can be no doubt. The political honours list is one of the tools of Conservative party management. It is a tool that Mrs Thatcher has wielded with a will, and there is no reason to suppose she will not do so this time.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Discredit where it is due

Pharaoh didn't know when he was well off. Only ten plagues? In this country, vast and well equipped armies, private as well as public, have turned the search for horrors to warn the nation against into the most promising growth industry of our time, and every day, as they roam the land with their trained ferrets, their search is rewarded by the discovery or invention of at least a score of problems, dangers, deficiencies, threats, shortages, surpluses and potential disasters, each of which, let alone all of them together, will inevitably entail the collapse of civilization by the following Wednesday at the latest.

Everything we eat is poisonous; everything we drink is contaminated; everything we smoke is fatal; everyone we go to bed with is diseased; every adult is sexually abused; every child is a racist; everyone who is not a drug addict is a drug pedlar; and every household that does not possess a colour television set, a compact disc player, a video recorder and a motor car is underprivileged AND SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT IT.

The latest of these attempts to save us all from Satan's power when we have gone astray surfaced a few months ago; I whacked it on the head, but to no avail, for it immediately grew nine more heads, and it is now ravaging about the country seeking prey to devour. Before it devours us all, let me have another, and this time a more comprehensive, whack.

The subject is debt; or, to look at it from the other end, credit. People, it seems, are getting too much of the latter and therefore getting innu too much of the former. Sir Gordon Borrie, head of the Office of Fair Trading, recently hoisted the storm warning (it was his jeremiad I was whacking), and he has returned to the subject, though this time, I am glad to see, in a very considerably calmer tone of voice.

Others have been less circumspect. Before I get down to detail, I must draw attention to the curious assumption which underlies — underlies because it is apparent — taken so completely for granted that no need to argue it seems to trouble those putting it forward — the whole case. It is unanimously assumed that when anyone gets into debt, the fault is entirely and always that of the lender, not of the borrower.

Now the strangest thing about that assumption is that as far as I can see nobody thinks it is strange. There has been not a word from even the driest of Tories; the Adam Smith Institute is silent on the subject; the providers of credit have clearly decided that a seemly discretion is their most fitting defence; and everywhere one looks the holders of the assumption are masters of the field.

Yet even they must surely realize that their assumption, right or wrong, is of remarkably recent birth, and that only a couple of decades ago it would have been regarded as very odd indeed by creditor and debtor alike. Whether the old attitude or the new one is the more valid, so abrupt a turnaround is worth discussing, is it not? Yet I have seen not a word of such discussion; here, then, are quite a lot of words to remedy the deficiency.

To start with, I offer a quotation from the author of a book on the subject, Ann Andrews, which I take from a feature on debt and credit in this very newspaper; the article was based on the case with the writer, Lee Rodwell,

managed to obtain a set of store credit cards giving her no less than £8,000 of credit with practically no questions asked and certainly no security given. Interviewed by Miss Rodwell, Miss Andrews said this:

The trouble with credit is that it erodes your normal common sense about money. It is made to look easy, attractive. If a store says you can have credit, you think that if they say it's all right it must be all right.

Who is the "you" in that paragraph? It certainly isn't me; I have a horror of debt so extreme as to be almost pathological, and none of my massive collection of credit cards is really a credit card at all, since I invariably pay the bill, as I pay all bills, the moment it is presented.

But no one has to be as weird as I am to see that getting into debt, and in particular getting dangerously deep into debt, is a very bad idea, however "easy, attractive" it may look. Why is it assumed that the only thing anyone faced with temptation can do is succumb to it?

But that brings me to the heart of the mystery I have outlined. And there is unlikely to be a better illustration of the strangeness I speak of than a recent article in the *Listener*, written by Mr Martin Young, who presented a BBC television programme on the subject of credit and its cards. I did not see it, but obviously the ideas on the screen must have been the same as those on the page, since they were the ideas of the same man, and the article was in effect a summary of the programme.

Mr Young quotes from two women he interviewed for the BBC. The first, Rose,

... owed £21,000 on a social security income of about £80 a week. ... Yet there are still places in the high street where Rose can extract credit with almost no questions asked. It is an indication of how desperate the retailers are for new customers. ... And in case the image of Rose suggests a feckless washer living off the state and squandering her money, it should be stated that nothing could be further from the truth. She is, in many ways, a fine example of Mrs Thatcher's enterprise culture.

I somehow thought that it would turn out to be all the fault of Mrs Thatcher, but before I suggest that it isn't, let me quote a little more from Rose. Her excessive indebtedness began when her domestic problems led to her losing her job, so, she says, "it's just circumstances, really."

Now Rose has clearly had a very bad time; money worries following a divorce (and a messy one, by the sound of it) would lay most people low. She is plainly deserving of sympathy, and she has mine. But that is not the end of the matter.

It must have been clear to her that whatever work she was likely to get, £21,000 of debt would take years, if not decades, to pay off. The credit-mongers who extended such irrecoverable sums are fools, and I hope they lose the lot, together with the bad debts of all the others to whom they supplied credit on note of hand alone. But Rose walked into that £21,000 hole by her own choice; a desperate choice, no doubt, but hers. The assumption behind Mr Young's comments is that because the lenders lent her money she could not pay back, they are altogether morally to blame for the choice she made, and for her "it's just circumstances, really."

I ask again: what is to become of us, as individuals and as a nation, if we continue to assert that we are inanimate objects rather than



Pedro Yonano

human beings, and that anything we do, from kicking the dog to getting into debt, and from getting into debt to cannibalism, is really nothing to do with us, but the fault either of other people, or — today even more frequently argued — "just circumstances, really."

I turn now to the second debtor on Mr Young's programme: Sandra was just 17 when she applied for her first credit card. To make it legal, she pretended she was 18. That little burst of bravado certainly brightened up the tail-end of her teens, but it is already ruining her twenties. Today Sandra owes over £3,000 on credit cards and loans. ...

Let us look more closely at that passage, for the unconscious attitudes Mr Young displays are wonderfully revealing. "To make it legal, she pretended she was 18"; what he means, actually, is "To make it illegal, but he is so imbued with the belief that it is not her fault that he turns the situation upside down. Nor should we miss the significance of the word he uses to describe what she did: "bravado". Come, let us all go swaggering into debt; we can have Cyrano's courage without his nose, and there is no need to think of those who are lending us the money because it's their fault that we are unhappy.

Now Sandra truly is unhappy. But within the catalogue of her sorrows unrolled by Mr Young, there is yet another nugget of unconscious irony on his part; at least, it seems to have altogether escaped his waking notice:

I have to pay £12 towards my debt a week. Twenty pounds for my rent. Seven pounds for food. Five pounds for bills. I pick up £68, and I've got bus fares and I smoke as well, so it's very tight.

I'm sure it is, and again I sympathize. But has not the list turned into one of those quiz questions which have the form of "Spot the odd one out"? She must,

of course, pay her instalment on the debt. She must, naturally, have somewhere to live. She must, certainly, eat. To go to work she must, assuredly, pay her fare. And a fever for everything else is little indeed. But — and here I brace myself for the reproaches — does she have to smoke? Are the cigarette sellers forcing her, with blackmail, threats of violence, to buy their wares? Physicians of the utmost fame assure us that smoking is bad for us, and I believe them; giving up cigarettes would be wise as well as honest. But even if smoking was the very best route to healthy longevity, doesn't something come before her simple pleasure — that is, paying off her debt at perhaps £13 a week instead of 12?

I said I braced myself for the reproaches, and I know they are on the way. Many people, following the path I have been discussing, have by now rendered themselves incapable of seeing that there is something blameworthy in running up a bill and not putting its repayment above everything except genuine necessities, however modest the luxuries. The reason they cannot see the blameworthiness is that they have forgotten the very concept of blame, because they have forgotten, or been taught to ignore, the concept of responsibility.

Let us go back to Rose for a moment. With all her debts, Mr Young says indignantly, "there are still places in the high street where Rose can extract credit with almost no questions asked." The more fools they, as I have said already. But why does it follow that if people can extract credit they will, or even must, extract it? Why (I quote from another passage in Mr Young's article) is it matter for outrage that "credit is not only freely available but forced into your eager little hand"? Why can you not clench that little hand into a fist, so that no credit can be forced into it?

And this whole story is not the worst. How many times, in the last few years, have you read articles or letters in newspapers, or heard comments on radio or television, in which it is asserted that shops, and in particular supermarkets, are to blame for shoplifting because they make the display of their wares so inviting? Could there be a more terrible indictment of what we have become that the thief is excused not on the ground that his children are starving but because it is easy for him to steal? I ask again: Why is it assumed that the only thing anyone faced with temptation can do is succumb to it?

I do not expect an answer. I shall therefore supply my own. We assume it because we have been taught for so long that we are not the master of our fate and the captain of our soul that we have come to believe it. But it was a lie when the nation began, and it is still a lie. It would be no bad thing if, among the good resolutions we made for the new year now dawning, we included a resolve to assert the truth in the face of the lie. If anyone needs a stiffener for that resolve, it can be found in my last quotation from Mr Young's article. It is in the form of a question:

The worry is also ethical — should there not be a clear responsibility on every lender to check the debtor's ability to repay the loan?

For those who have still not taken the point, here it is. Should there not be a very considerably greater clear responsibility on every borrower to check the debtor's ability to repay the loan?

Anne Sofer

Nic Writtington and his cap

An entertaining political pantomime is in the offing — on the unlikely subject of local government finance. The script, glimpses of which I have already seen, is of an intricate absurdity unmatched by Feydeau farce or Donizetti opera. It will have a cast of thousands, will run for months, and could cost billions.

The title is still being argued over and there is some doubt about how it should end. Who will actually get the upper hand? One party is for calling it "the loonies' revenge"; another for "Ridley redux". I believe that a simple non-warrior would be more appropriate: *Shambles*, for instance.

Prominent among the main characters are the Loony Left. This popular comic group can be relied on to appear on stage surrounded by a colourful entourage of anti-heterosexuals, Sinn Féin activists and police bashers. Behind the Loony Left come the Labour front bench, a collective of impotent and disapproving class-writhing faint disapproval because, in addition to keeping bad company and bringing the family name into disrepute, the Loony Left are recklessly bankrupting the family estate in Brent, Lambeth, Islington and indeed most of London and the other major cities. The writhing uncles, hoping to retrieve the family name, are trying desperately to draw attention to a few other estates that are well managed and will have a big conference to publicize them in February.

But I am running ahead of myself: that is Act 2. The show will be opened more soberly by a sort of classic Chorus figure, in the person of the Audit Commission; a dispassionate commentator, removed from the real action, filling us in on the follies and foibles of the other dramatic personae. Its report on the government of London is expected in January. This, it is widely leaked, will tell us that the Loony Left are indeed appalling administrators and running into serious financial trouble. But it will also criticize the government for meanness, obscurantism and flawed local government legislation.

Just how fatally flawed the Audit Commission did not know when it started giving previews of its report. And here we must be introduced to another key character whose intervention has converted the whole affair from a casual street-theatre knockabout to a full-scale West End production. This is Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary. It is not yet clear whether his role in the production is eventually to be the wizard or the demon king — or perhaps the incompetent pantaloons who ends up dead behind the arras. His first appearance has not been propitious. Just before Christmas he announced in the Commons that every single rate support grant settlement since 1981 had been based on a false premise and was illegal. It was all far too difficult and technical to explain but his lawyers had as-

sured him that it was fortunately not beyond remedy. A mere £70 billion was involved and retro-spective legislation would soon put it right.

At this point you will have to refer to the programme notes to understand what it is all about (there are only about three people in the country who know — Ridley himself, wrongly, claiming to be one of them). The essential fact is that this faulty legislation is the very legislation under which the left-wing councils have been ratcheted, and are consequently going bankrupt — since they are improvidently borrowing huge sums rather than cutting spending as the government intended.

Now comes the exciting part. However "merely technical" retrospective legislation may be, it takes time. Until it goes through both Houses of Parliament and receives the royal assent, the government cannot impose rate caps limits on the recalcitrant councils. It can tell them a rate cap will be imposed retrospectively. It can dare them to set high rates in March, only to be forced to pay some of it back once the bill is law. But for the time being, due to that glorious technicality, the councils have regained their former freedom to set the rates as high as they choose.

The plot thickens. Will the writhing uncles appear at their grand conference in February urging caution? Or will they cheer on the Loony Left in their heroic leaps through the paper hoop of rate cap limits? Will wriggling Ridley actually manage to get his bill through in time? If he doesn't, will he force them all to jump backwards through the hoop? Or will both he and his bill be swept away in the mill-race of the approaching general election?

Throw into this confusion a by-election in a marginal London seat, stir in the launch of a new London newspaper, season generously with pre-election fever, and I think you will see why I think *Shambles* is likely to be such a hit. I can visualize some fantastic numbers, with rate demands, rate refunds, writs, ballot papers and discredited Acts of Parliament falling like confetti over the audience while the entire cast sings something like *Oh What a Way to Run a Country!*

In fact it is just the sort of traditional Gilbert and Sullivan stuff that the House of Lords and the judiciary will find irresistible, and I doubt if Equity itself will be able to keep them off the stage. A filibuster in their Lordships' House! An injunction against the Secretary of State! A judicial inquiry into the parliamentary draughtsmen! Yes, it will all be a most magnificent muddle, farago, mess, hash, houch-pouch, witch's brew, (to quote Roget) fincas, mélie, ruction and pother. And I doubt if a single person observing it will emerge with much respect for the present state of our democracy. The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

moreover... Miles Kington

You don't have to junk it

This is the time of year when newspapers are disfigured by articles on what to do with left-over turkey. (Personally I cut it up into tiny pieces which I keep in paper bags to throw over newly-weds outside the church. No nasty mess afterwards, as it is all eaten by dogs and cats. The only drawback is that the bride starts smelling of sage and onions.)

Well, this article is different. It tells you what to do with anything left over that isn't turkey — all those things which we inevitably find littering the household in those dark, dead days just before the New Year. Things, for instance, such as:

Wrapping paper. This can be turned into a delicious casserole or curried. Simply chop the wrapping paper into small pieces and proceed as you would for turkey casserole or curry. (See some other newspaper for the recipes.) Alternatively, you can keep the tiny pieces of paper in small bags for throwing over newly-weds.

Toothpicks. If you have enough wrapping paper and toothpicks left over, you can make them into those tiny cocktail parasols which jab you in the eye when you're drinking those fruit salads with some alcohol concealed somewhere in the bottom. Of course, you don't do this yourself; you lock your children and left-over relatives in a room to do it, just as it's done in the Far East.

Paper napkins. Left-over paper napkins can not only be cut up and thrown into casseroles, they can also be used for a lively party game called Snap Election. One player is chosen as Mrs Thatcher and the game starts when she shouts: "Election Time". All the other players immediately write down on a napkin all the reasons why they should be elected, and then try to tear up each other's napkins. At the end, the winner is showered with the fragments of his own election manifesto.

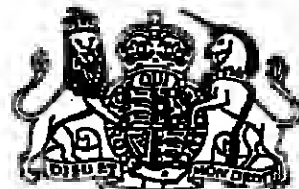
Left-over children and relatives. After Christmas we very often find small infants or elderly relatives around the house whom we do not recognize and who refuse to go home. They can be chopped up and put into casseroles, if you don't mind crowds of policemen calling in the New Year; alternatively, they can be put into left-

over wrapping paper and posted home. At the very worst they can be used for huying and selling in that new board game which you got at Christmas and whose rules nobody can understand.

Diaries. If enough people received useless diaries at Christmas, these can be used for a wonderful party game called *We Must Meet For Lunch Sometime*. What happens is this. Everyone marks in their 1987 diary four weeks holiday, two weeks skiing, 14 dinner dates, 10 house weekends, eight days off with toothache and a mystery lunch with someone called Hilary. You then have to receive proposals from all the other players for meetings throughout the year and find an acceptable excuse for turning them down. The winner is anyone who gets out of all social engagements; the loser is the one who ends up having Auntie Doris next Christmas.

Bottles of cheap Italian wine. I think it was Hugh Johnson who defined one Italian wine as the first successful compromise between wine and Coca Cola. Any/all left-over Italian wine can happily be put into your car as anti-freeze or into your turkey casserole. Alternatively, empty the bottles to different levels and then, by hitting the bottles with spoons, turn them into a cheap but cheerful Italian wine bottle orchestra. Even more alternatively, keep the wine bottles to throw at newly-wed couples at weddings, if that's the sort of rowdy wedding you go to.

Stacks of left-over bottles which the dustman won't take away. Keep them for weddings, when they can be tied to the car bumper. Cars. This Christmas many people have obeyed the police's injunction: "If you're not driving, leave your cars behind at your place for the party." You can either first returning driver a wonderful surprise, or of course you can at the next wedding, Best of all, use them as a dumping place for all those Christmas newspaper quizzes, left over from December 24, that nobody showed the faintest in-



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
December 28: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Ely Cathedral Restoration Appeal, visited Ely Cathedral today.

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on February 11, 17 and 24 and March 3, 10 and 17.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the National Rubella Council, will attend a reception for members of Asian communities at the Royal Society of Medicine on January 13.

The Duchess of York will open "The World of Drawings and Watercolours" exhibition at the Park Lane Hotel on January 21.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, will present the Duke of Cornwall Awards for Milk from Farm Resources at the Naval and Military Club on February 4.

The Prince of Wales, President of The Prince's Trust, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will attend the premiere of the film Mosquito Coast, in aid of the trust, at the Odeon Theatre, Haymarket, on February 4.

The Prince of Wales will present the "Schools Industry Prize" awards at the Institute of Directors on February 5.

The Princess of Wales will attend a concert given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and children from the London borough of Tower Hamlets at the Festival Hall on February 5.

The Prince of Wales will open Project Fullempoy Bread, West Riding House, Chesapeake, Bradford, on February 6.

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 73; Sir Richard Beaumont, 74; Mr John Conoill, 62; Mr Bernard Cribbins, 58; General Sir Robert Gower, 63; Professor L. C. B. Gowen, 73; Mr S.M. Hornby, 52; Mr Gilbert Hunt, 72; Mr C. H. Newton, 67; Dr Magnus Pyke, 78; Sir Kenneth Sharp, 60; Mr Harvey Smith, 48; Mr Jon Voight, 48; Sir Edward Williams, 65.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev J. Richards, Curate, Adelaide, diocese of Cullindora, to be Curate, South Canterbury, diocese of All Saints, Hemphills, diocese of Newcastle.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army
BRIGADIER: N. O. R. Howarth to be Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, Royal Grenadier Guards, Jan 2.



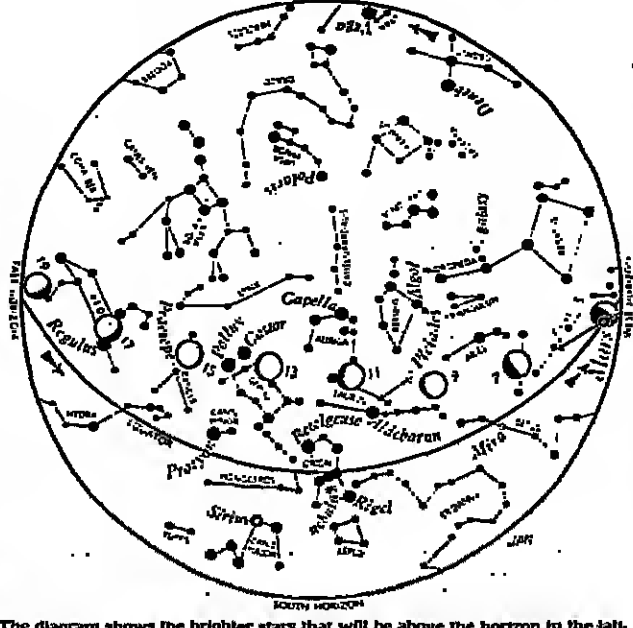
Once again, Richard Baker asks you to support our traditional appeal at Christmas. Please help us to give the comfort and companionship of radios and radio/cassette recorders to blind people in need. These sets cost around £42 each.

Clifford Longley Split between belief and ethics

Nothing is more difficult to get a measure of than the very pervasive and persuasive observation that a belief can be "true" for the individual who holds it, though the observer does not share it. "It is true for him" is the formula used. It says more than that the individual is sincere.

The night sky in January

By Our Astronomy Correspondent
Mercury will be in superior conjunction on the 12th. It will be an evening star in the second half of the month but unlikely to be seen, on the 30th it will have set by about 18h, only one hour after the Sun.



University news

Glasgow
The following honorary degrees will be conferred on June 17:
DD: The Rev Christopher Francis Evans, emeritus professor of New Testament Studies, King's College London.

Science report

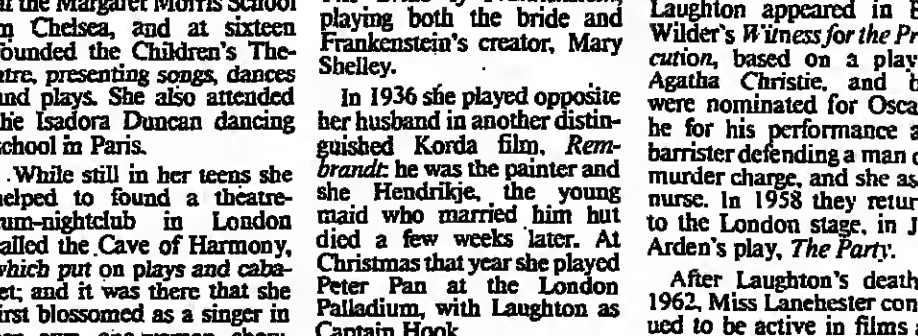
New test identifies squinting babies
By Andrew Wiseman
David Teller, of Washington University, Seattle, and makes it possible to diagnose squints in babies as young as four weeks.

MR GEORGE DANGERFIELD Amateur who made history exciting

Mr George Dangerfield, whose historical masterpiece The Strange Death of Liberal England, published more than half a century ago, has proved of lasting influence, died on December 26. He was 82.

ELSA LANCHESTER

Elsa Lanchester, stage and film actress and widow of Charles Laughton, died on December 26. She was 84.



The Bride of Frankenstein, playing both the bride and Frankenstein's creator, Mary Shelley.

PROFESSOR ARNOLD KETTLE

Professor Arnold Kettle, one of the most distinguished Marxist literary critics of the last 40 years in the West, died on Christmas Eve. He was 70.

Critics of new Fylingdales radar defied

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States has decided to go ahead with plans to build a sophisticated phased-array radar station in Britain despite widespread claims that it will violate the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

One of the strongest criticisms of the new installations — in Britain and Greenland — comes in a lengthy new report presented by Mr Brent Scowcroft, the former National Security Adviser to President Ford, Mr Joseph Nye, a former State Department official who is now a professor at Harvard, and Mr William Perry, a former Pentagon official.

The report states that the ABM treaty does not provide a strong legal base for replacing existing radar sites at Thule, Greenland and Fylingdales, Yorkshire, with new large phased-array radars.

But the Reagan Administration has given specific assurances to the UK that the radar is fully consistent with the accord. As a result Britain gave permission to build the installation at the North Yorkshire site.

The Administration claims that both new radars are permitted because the treaty

Puppies find a haven



Sakharov criticizes key 'Star Wars' linkage

Continued from page 1

prize-winner physicist added: "I do not believe that SDI can be implemented, not from the scientific or technical point of view, but in the military-strategic sense. I think a potential enemy with highly developed technology can always find a means to overcome the space defences, and it is much easier and cheaper than to create the space defences."

He used the 90-minute interview to spell out in detail his plan for resolving the Afghan situation following the pull-out of Soviet troops.

"The partisans should be recognized politically, with the right to a place in the political dialogue. There should be international guarantees ensuring law and order in the transitional period that will occur after the withdrawal of Soviet troops."

Dr Sakharov announced during the interview that the poor state of his health will prevent him resuming the leadership role in the Soviet human rights movement.

"I want to devote myself more to science. My years are passing and this is important to me, so I have to limit myself somewhat," he explained.

Miss Claire Oram of the Battersea Dogs' Home taking a nuzzle yesterday from one of more than 100 abandoned pets the south-west London animal sanctuary has accepted since Christmas Eve.

The home is seeking to sell some of the dogs. It expects the next big intake when pets brought as presents are left to fend for themselves.

Colonel Todd Sweeney, director general, said: "It's about Easter time or in the early summer that we see today's lovable little puppy half-grown into an ill-trained dirty and noisy dog."

(Photograph: Denzil McNeelance).

Sobering thoughts for Rent-a-Santa

With the approach of the traditional new year's holiday, the longest queues in the freezing streets of Moscow are no longer to be found outside the drab-looking state liquor stores. Instead, hardy Muscovites have been lining up for hours for the privilege of buying freshly-cut fir trees (or *yolka*) for the regulation price of about £1 a yard.

Those willing to defy the law and cut down their own from the snow-covered forests surrounding the capital face fines of nearly £100, which despite their severity have failed to obliterate the spirit of individual enterprise.

Although the state does not officially celebrate Christmas (which even before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution was a less significant festival here than Easter), Westerners often feel surprisingly at home because of the way in which the Soviet new year's celebrations have acquired many of the familiar trappings of a Western Christmas.

In addition to the lights on the estimated one million trees in and around Moscow, toy shops have been jammed with last-minute shoppers — many snapping up the replica pistols and sub-machine guns which are so popular — and the jovial figure of Ded Moroz (Grandfather Frost), the Iron Curtain's equivalent of Santa Claus, has been on hand to add to the festivities.

Clad in red with a flowing white beard and black boots, he could easily be mistaken for his capitalist counterpart except for the constant presence at his side of Snegurochka (the Snow Maiden), usually a dazzling blonde in a white dress and fur-trimmed hat. Apart from adding glamour to the occasion, she is also on hand to try to prevent the hundreds of Soviet Santas from overdoing the liquid hospitality on their rounds.

During this, the second winter under Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's draconian anti-alcohol campaign, the role of the Snow Maidens (often film actresses or models) is more restraining than normal — although many Muscovites remain unconvinced that anything will prevent the mass national hangover for which January 1 is notorious.

As well as putting in an appearance at Detsky Mir (Children's World), the giant emporium situated inconspicuously across from the headquarters of the KGB,

about 500 Soviet Santas and their female accomplices are available for hire as part of a visiting Santa service which costs £5 a time. For this sum, the pair (who both have to pass a special exam to secure their jobs) arrive in a yellow taxi, tell jokes and hastily fill a sack with presents handed over by grateful parents.

According to the schedule set down by the state organization which runs the service, the "rent-a-Santas" are scheduled to carry out about 30 visits every day, but in the past the habit of accepting hospitality from each household has often put the visits arranged for later in the day at risk. Each Santa earns about £300 for the new year's stint, so competition for places is fierce.

Just as Christmas in the West is largely an occasion to be with family and friends, new year in the Soviet Union is chiefly an occasion for domestic merry-making, with much of the late-night attention surrounding an annual New Year's Eve television spectacular pre-recorded by many of the country's top musical entertainers.

Those choosing to watch a film on one of the increasing number of video recorders were warned in a recent article to be careful about what entertainment they select.

An article in the magazine *Person and Law* told the salutary tale of a group now facing trial because they spent last New Year's Eve watching an imported karate film on a video set.

Shortly before midnight, the militia burst into the room and declared "Article 222 of the Criminal Code forbids the distribution, showing or possession with intent to distribute or show video films or other works which propagate the cult of violence and cruelty. The established punishment is up to two years' imprisonment, or two years' reformatory work or a fine of 300 roubles (£300), with confiscation of the video player. And your film about karate is propagating violence and cruelty."

The author, Mr Nikolai Bival, said the group were facing trial and their mood was far from festive. "They do not feel like celebrating new year any more," he concluded, "and all because they did not know the law."

Christopher Walker

Radical change sought for state schools

Continued from page 1

learning. They had also criticized authorities that turned in good examination results and satisfied parents without wasting money.

"They have failed to act as the guardians of a good system, they are the dog that didn't bark."

"What have they done about anti-racism, for instance? Now we see it exploding in Brent over the past three months, but it's been around for the past two or three years in the borough."

The group claims that standards have declined over the past 20 years because of the change of comprehensive education. They say the new GCSE examination, which they describe as "potentially disastrous", shows "the folly of egotistical thinking" and they urge a return to traditional O levels.

Some of the signatories' solutions have already been adopted in principle by Mr Baker. These include a national core curriculum, a new contract for teachers, teacher-training reform, making schools responsible for their own budgets, and transferring the ownership of schools from local authorities to individual trusts, as in the case of Mr Baker's city technology colleges.

The most radical of the manifesto proposals is a return to separate schools for children of different abilities who would be prepared for different examinations. Each self-governing school would be free to select its pupils and would receive a grant direct from the government according to the numbers it enrolled.

"The beneficial effect of this on state education is obvious," the manifesto claims. "Schools will have to work in order to stay in business, and the worse their results, the more likely they will be to go to the wall."

Whose schools? A radical manifesto. (The Hillgate Group, £1).

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Popular Classics: LSO, Barbican, 7.45.

The Nutcracker, London Festival Ballet, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 3 and 7.30.

Talks

Wizards of Steam, Science Museum, South Kensington, SW7, 3.

Christmas plaetarium shows: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, SE10, 2.30 and 3.30.

Children's lecture: Prodiges to Paoit, Tate Gallery.

Exhibitions in progress

British and American Pop Art, Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.50, Sun 2 to 5.50 (closed New Year's Day).

Early and baroque music by the Broadside Band, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, W1, 7.30.

Classic Silents: London Concert Orchestra, Barbican, Silk St, EC2, 3.

Millbank, SW1: 11.30.

What is this Rock? Geological Museum, Exhibition Rd, SW7, 2.30.

General

Knee-breeches and Crinolines, try on Victorian Court dress and find out about its history, 10 to 1; in the party, 2 to 4; Kensington Palace State Apartments, W8.

Mask making, learn how to sculpt and make latex masks; Hampton Court, Palace, 10 prompt.

Mayer Guided Tours: Liverpool Museum, William Brown St, 1.30 and 2.30.

The Snow Queen, Regent Centre, High St, Christchurch, Dorset, 7.30.

Fantastic Mr Fox, Gardner Arts Centre, Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton, 2.30.

Nature notes

More song-thrushes are singing. Wrens are also singing loudly, and hedge-sparrows are producing their wispy song from the tops of small trees, before they go and forage like mice on the dry earth in the evergreen shruberies.

The few blackcaps that have stayed in Britain for the winter begin to appear at bird tables; though they are dainty birds, they are fierce contestants for the food supplies.

Wandering sparrowhawks often settle near a bird's table, and carry off the blue tits in swift attacks.

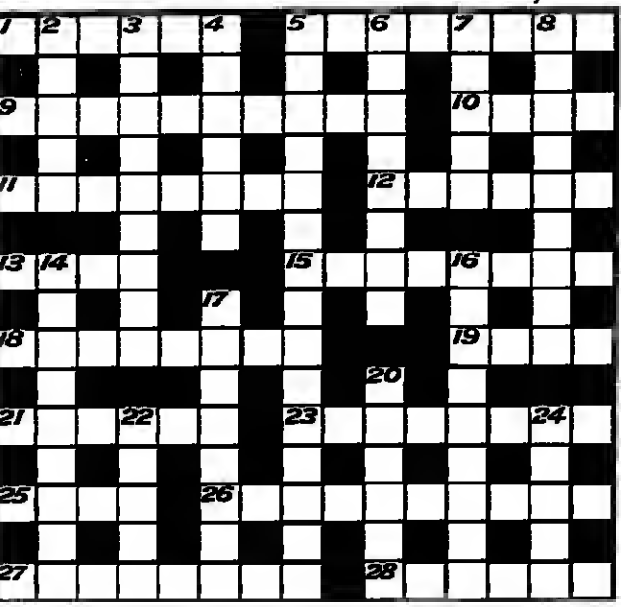
On the East coast, white-fronted geese are coming in from the North Sea in large flocks. Many will cross over to the Severn estuary.

A darker variety of the same species has been reported from the Norfolk and Lincolnshire coast; they feed on seeds among the sand dunes or in the salt marshes.

Some weeping willows still have green leaves. In neglected city gardens, feverfew continues in flower here and there, often nestling against a gapepost; and galant soldier, with its tiny white and yellow flowers, rambles in the flower beds.

DJM

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,239



- ACROSS**
- Norse god losing his hair? (6)
 - Providing a water-supply in church in case of necessity (21,5)
 - Having a rug, eat outside — it's perfect (10)
 - Grants to get ball-points (4)
 - A North African brews ale with grain (8)
 - Set about a fool and feel unwell afterwards (6)
 - Her make-up is in rainbow colours! (4)
 - Discuss and OK travel arrangement (4,4)
 - Move towards a very soft kind of fish (8)
 - Has a meal in haste at some fast-food place (4)
 - One easily scared in company — drawback, that (6)
 - Denied assistance, gets ahead (8)
 - Ruthless firm (4)
 - Various names (in USA) may be given to a secretary (10)
 - Puts up with relations — is on guard (8)
 - Spring issue (6)
- DOWN**
- An island everyone gets around to (5)
 - Coin-in-the-dot source of medication? (9)
 - Don't leave a graduate in control (6)
 - Coverts not in a gathering, nor from choice (7,3,5)
 - A people with the necessary power ready to co-operate (2,1,5)
 - Does some evening work for clubs (5)
 - Satisfied about trendy moderate (9)
 - Discount housing for a 14'er-do-well (9)
 - Bow decoration, nice as can be (9)
 - Acquire foreign currency and it's sure to be noticed (8)
 - Think about one's ill-considered application (6)
 - A tree not quite completely turned colour (5)
 - Kind of sugar often found on aeroplanes (5)
- Solution to Puzzle No 17,238**
- The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,238 will appear next Saturday**

The week's walks

Today: A London village — Hampstead, near Hampstead Underground, 11. The London of Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, most Blackheath Underground, 2.

Tomorrow: Royal London, most West-hamster Underground, 8.30.

Wednesday: Political London, government and Parliament, most Embankment Underground, 10.30. East End pub night, see *Whitbread Underground*, 7.

New Year's Day: The Famous gales mile, 2.00. In the city, most St Paul's Underground, 2. East End murders — Jack the Ripper, most Tower Hill Underground.

Friday: Legal and illegal London — Inns of Court, most Midland Underground, 2.

Saturday: Chertsey, London's hidden village, most Chertsey Heritage Centre, 10.30. East End pub night, see *Whitbread Underground*, 2.

Sunday: A journey through Shakespeare's London to Twelfth Night, most St Paul's Underground, 11. Gates of the City, most St Paul's Underground, 2.

The pound

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.25	2.13
Canada	1.10	1.08
Denmark	6.50	6.20
France	2.06	1.97
Germany	1.74	1.65
Italy	1.74	1.65
Japan	1.74	1.65
Netherlands	2.06	1.97
Spain	1.74	1.65
Sweden	1.74	1.65
Switzerland	2.06	1.97
USA	1.51	1.44
Yugoslavia	1.51	1.44

Retail Price Index: 391.7

London: The FT index closed up 6.5 at 1391.4 on December 24.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 3.52 at 1930.49 on Friday.

Anniversaries

Births: Andrew Johnson, 17th president of the USA 1865-69, 1808; William Ewart Gladstone, Prime Minister 1868-74, 1809-85, 1886, 1892-94, Liverpool, 1809.

Deaths: Thomas à Becket, murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, 1170; Charles Lamb, essayist, 1834; Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, 1926.

Weather

A mild WNW flow affects most of the British Isles. The far NE may start the day with some hail or sleet showers but most of the British Isles will have a cloudy morning, with patchy rain in western areas. In N and W Scotland later, there will be a heavier and persistent spell of rain. Many central and eastern districts of England and Scotland should brighten up during the day, perhaps with a little sunshine, and will be dry. Western and northern areas will remain cloudy, with some patchy rain, and with hill and coast fog extensive at times. It will be mild but fairly windy. Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Rain in most places, with the mild weather giving way to colder, showery conditions.

High Tides

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	11.51	11.42
Aberdeen	11.51	11.42
Amsterdam	5.09	12.04
Belfast	9.05	3.33
Bombay	4.54	11.1
Brussels	3.28	1.1
Cardiff	10.50	4.10
Chennai	9.51	3.5
Copenhagen	8.53	5.2
Dublin	10.50	4.10
Hamburg	9.51	3.5
Helsinki	8.53	5.2
Hong Kong	11.51	11.42
London	11.51	11.42
Lyons	11.51	11.42
Manila	11.51	11.42
Medan	11.51	11.42
Osaka	11.51	11.42
Paris	11.51	11.42
Perth	11.51	11.42
Portsmouth	11.51	11.42
Rangoon	11.51	11.42
San Francisco	11.51	11.42
Singapore	11.51	11.42
Sourabaya	11.51	11.42
Tokyo	11.51	11.42
Yokohama	11.51	11.42

Weather

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; L, low; H, high; S, sun.

YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind
Belfast	10.50	10.50
Bombay	24.00	24.00
Brussels	8.45	8.45
Cardiff	10.50	10.50
Chennai	31.00	31.00
Dublin	10.50	10.50
Edinburgh	10.50	10.50
Glasgow	11.52	11.52

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 am to 6 pm, 5°C (41°F). Humidity: 6 pm, 85 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 1016.5 millibars, steady sea level, 6 pm, 1016.5 millibars, steady.

Saturday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity: 3 pm, 75 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02 in Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 6.5 millibars, steady sea level, 6 pm, 1022.0 millibars, sea level, 6 pm, 1022.0 millibars, sea level.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Newcastle 10C (50F); lowest day temp: Wick 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Wick 0.51 in; highest sunrise: Harro Bay 5.7 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind
Scarboro	10.50	10.50
Birmingham	10.50	10.50
Cardiff	10.50	10.50
Edinburgh	10.50	10.50
Glasgow	10.50	10.50
London	10.50	10.50
Manchester	10.50	10.50
Newcastle	10.50	10.50
Nottingham	10.50	10.50
Sheffield	10.50	10.50
Sunderland	10.50	10.50
Wolverhampton	10.50	10.50

Lighting-up Time

London 4.29 pm to 7.36 am

Bristol 4.29 pm to 7.36 am

Edinburgh 4.15 pm to 7.14 am

Manchester 4.27 pm to 7.55 am

Newcastle 4.57 pm to 7.51 am

NOON TODAY

London 4.29 pm to 7.36 am

Bristol 4.29 pm to 7.36 am

Edinburgh 4.15 pm to 7.14 am

Manchester 4.27 pm to 7.55 am

Newcastle 4.57 pm to 7.51 am

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind
Alicante	17.00	17.00
Amsterdam	10.50	10.50
Bombay	24.00	24.00
Brussels	8.45	8.45
Cardiff	10.50	10.50
Chennai	31.00	31.00
Dublin	10.50	10.50
Edinburgh	10.50	10.50
Glasgow	10.50	10.50
London	10.50	10.50
Manchester	10.50	10.50
Newcastle	10.50	10.50
Nottingham	10.50	10.50
Sheffield	10.50	10.50
Sunderland	10.50	10.50
Wolverhampton	10.50	10.50

Portfolio Gold

Times Portfolio Gold rules are as follows:

1. What is Portfolio Gold? Portfolio Gold is a new type of investment fund. It is a collection of shares in the Times Portfolio Gold Trust. The Trust is a company which has been set up to invest in gold mining and related activities.

2. How to play — Daily Dividend. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as a daily dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as a daily dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every day. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

3. How to play — Weekly Dividend. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as a weekly dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as a weekly dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every week. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

4. How to play — Monthly Dividend. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as a monthly dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as a monthly dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every month. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

5. How to play — Quarterly Dividend. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as a quarterly dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as a quarterly dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every quarter. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

6. How to play — Half-yearly Dividend. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as a half-yearly dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as a half-yearly dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every half-year. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

7. How to play — Annual Dividend. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as an annual dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as an annual dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every year. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

8. How to play — Other Dividends. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as an other dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as an other dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every other year. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

9. How to play — Other Dividends. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as an other dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as an other dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every other year. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

10. How to play — Other Dividends. You can play Portfolio Gold in two ways. You can play it as an other dividend fund, or you can play it as a lump sum investment. If you play it as an other dividend fund, you will receive a dividend every other year. If you play it as a lump sum investment, you will receive a dividend once a month.

Roads

London and the South-east: M4/A34: Avoid the eastbound M4, A34 and A130, as an abnormal load is being moved from the Membury service area in Didcot power station travelling at 5 mph, starting at dawn and continuing all day. A128: Roundabout construction at Stowford Rd, G: Dunmow, Essex. A2: Road width reduced along Watling St, Gillingham.

Wales and the west: A38: Delays between Exeter and Plymouth with lane closures in both directions at Haldon Hill. A38/A358: Work at Blackbrook roundabout, Somerset, near M5 junction 25 (Taunton).

Scotland: A198: Temporary lights W of Meadowhill junction. A92/A978: Restrictions at King St, St Machar Drive, Aberdeen. A77: Temporary lights and single line traffic of the Glasgow to Ayr rd, N of Ballantyne.

Motorways: page 5

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 27AN 292583 (the winner lives in Kent); £50,000: 10SW 589349 (Bradford); £25,000: 10CB 844870 (Bristol).

Oil swap with...
BASE LENDING RATES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET (Change on week) FT 30 Share 1301.2 (+29.1) FT-SE 100 1665.1 (+32.9) Bargains 10000 (31646) USM (Datastream) 130.19 (+1.33) THE POUND (Change on week) US Dollar 1.4580 (+0.0095) W German mark 2.8664 (+0.0215) Trade-weighted 69.0 (+0.4)

Oil swap likely with submarine order

By David Young Energy Correspondent Saudi Arabia is now studying the four offers it has received for the construction of a submarine fleet for its navy, with the likelihood that the order will go to the company prepared to take oil in part payment. The Saudi government has now closed the bidding for the order with a last-minute offer being submitted by the Rotterdam Drydock Company. The British bid has been made by Vickers with its new generation of conventional boats. The others are from France and West Germany. Although the French regard themselves as front runners for the order - they have already equipped much of the Saudi navy - Britain has had considerable experience in oil barter deals with Saudi Arabia. At present Britain is supplying £2 billion worth of military aircraft and related equipment and is taking part-payment in oil. The British banking system is also likely to be placed to handle an oil-swap deal, with all of the big clearing banks operating counter trade departments who could act for Vickers. Saudi Arabia plans to place orders for six to eight diesel-electric submarines and is expected to narrow the choice down to two options by early spring and then conduct trials with the rival designs.

BTR ready to pounce on Pilkington

By Cliff Feltham Hostilities will be resumed this week in the bitter £1.2 billion takeover bid for Pilkington Brothers, the glass group. Pilkington will attempt to shore up its defences with a big profit forecast while BTR waits in the wings ready to fire off a higher, and potentially knockout, bid for Pilkington before the January 10 deadline. In the stock market, Pilkington shares have remained well over 100p in excess of the cash and shares mixture from BTR, reflecting the view that the initial offer was no more than a sighting shot. Interim profits from Pilkington were better than expected and the company's followers are now lifting their expectations for the year from £175 million to about £190 million.

RESULTS TODAY - Interims: Hidong Estate, Euston Centre Properties. Finals: None announced. TOMORROW - Interims: Stavert Zigmala. Finals: C.A. Sperati, Warner Holidays. WEDNESDAY - Interims: Arbutnot Dollar Income Trust. Finals: None announced. THURSDAY - Interims and Finals: None announced. FRIDAY - Interims: Kleinwort, Benson Gil Fund. Finals: First National Finance Corp (expected on January 5).

BASE LENDING RATES ABN...11.00% Adam & Company...11.00% BCCI...11.00% Citibank Savings...12.45% Consolidated Grds...11.00% Co-operative Bank...11.00% C. Hoare & Co...11.00% Hong Kong & Shanghai...11.00% Lloyds Bank...11.00% Nat Westminster...11.00% Royal Bank of Scotland...11.00% TSB...11.00% Citibank NA...11.00% † Mortgage Base Rate.

Morgan Grenfell details share sales

New Guinness disclosures

The merchant banker Morgan Grenfell confirmed last night that it has given fresh evidence to the government investigation into the affairs of the drinks group Guinness. Morgan Grenfell acted as the leading financial adviser to Guinness during the £2.7 billion takeover battle for the whisky giant Distillers. The evidence provided by Morgan Grenfell concerned the details of the purchase of 2.1 million Guinness shares by a subsidiary of another merchant bank, Henry Ansbacher, at prices well above the market level shortly after the end of the takeover battle. This latest development in the Guinness investigation follows weekend disclosures that Ansbacher's managing director, Lord Spens, a former senior executive at Morgan Grenfell, had himself given evidence under oath to the two inspectors appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to look into the affairs of Guinness. The evidence of both parties concerns the purchase of 2.1 million Guinness shares by Down Nominees, a Henry Ansbacher subsidiary, at a price of 355p compared with the then current market level of 298p to 316p. The shares were purchased from both discretionary and ordinary investment clients of Ansbacher. Details of the transaction were sent to the DTI inspectors on the decision of Ansbacher's chief executive, Mr Richard Fenhall, who was on a skiing holiday in Switzerland yesterday and "not available for comment". It is understood that Ansbacher maintains that at no time were the 2.1 million Guinness shares held by Down Nominees actually owned by Ansbacher as a principal. Morgan Grenfell, while making no official comment on its role in the affair, denies suggestions that it made funds available for the purchase of the Guinness shares by Down Nominees, or that it had instructed Down Nominees as to the way the Guinness shares should be voted at a later meeting of Guinness shareholders called to approve the Distillers takeover. According to the Ansbacher version of events, stamp duty on the purchase of the Guinness shares was paid through Morgan Grenfell, although a Morgan spokesman said that it had no comment to make on the suggestion. It is understood that a major factor behind Mr Fenhall's decision to offer

DTI seeks early legal action

The Government could still initiate legal proceedings before Parliament reconvenes on January 12 against a civil servant allegedly involved in leaking market-sensitive information about merger decisions to a stockbroker, Whitehall sources said yesterday. Labour has vowed to put insider dealing at the top of the Commons agenda and Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had originally hoped for results by Christmas from the inquiry into his own civil servants, to disperse any political attack. But the holidays, plus the absence of top DTI officials until next week, have delayed any legal moves. The DTI will be closed today. After launching insider dealing investigations into City companies, including the brewing giant Guinness, Mr Channon announced on December 18 that outside

UK 'to miss out on next rate cuts'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent Interest-rate cuts in the leading industrialized countries are on the way, according to James Capel, the stockbroker. But Britain is likely to miss out on the next round of rate reductions, partly because of sterling's international vulnerability. Sluggish economic growth in the US, and continued low inflation, will cause the Federal Reserve Board to cut the official discount rate from 5.5 to 5 per cent during the first quarter, says the broker's International Bond and Currency Review, published today. Similar factors are expected to force the Japanese authorities into a further discount rate cut. Upward pressure on the yen, as the dollar shows across-the-board weakness, is cited as an additional factor by James Capel. West Germany, the Review concedes, is more difficult to assess. Herr Gerhard

Leisure chain expands

Midsummer Leisure, the USM-quoted public house and discotheque chain, is expanding its shopping business with the acquisition of Derby Signs for £1.25 million. The company, which designs and manufactures corporate signs and fittings, will be merged with Midsummer's Charwood Shopfitters operation. Midsummer, which started life as Camra (Real Ale) Investments, is expected to be promoted from the USM to the Official List on January 26. As part of the move the firm plans to split its existing 50p shares into two 25p shares. Two weeks ago, Midsummer announced profits for the year to September had more than doubled to £1.04 million. Derby Signs earned pre-tax profits last year of £45,000 on turnover of £650,000.

Foreign buying adds fuel to heated property company market

Year of the overseas takeover

A look at 1986 reveals it to be the year of the takeover in the property sector where shares rose by 19 per cent fuelled by intense corporate activity which is still going on. The novel aspect was the buying of British property companies by foreign investors - a phenomenon which added pace to the already hectic market. Capital & Counties was the first to succumb to overseas interests, with Liberty Life, the South African insurance company, taking control. Rodanco, the Dutch investment group, succeeded in winning Haslemere at 640p a share after a dawn raid at 600p. Haslemere's net asset value (NAV) was defensively revalued at 728p a share. Property Holding & Investment Trust sprang to life, taking the City by surprise with the effectiveness of its defence against Greycost Group's £108 million bid. Greycost's alternative cash offer, of 137.5p a share, was not enough to tempt shareholders and Phil later put its NAV at 168p a share. Only weeks later the old-established investment company agreed terms of £188.6 million with the Chase Corporation, New Zealand's third largest company. Bredero Properties, the British developer floated nil from its Dutch parent company, must have had one of the shortest independent lives in the sector. After a mere 30 weeks of existence, it was taken over by Stough Estates at 145p a share. As the year has progressed, takeover bids in the sector have seen a closing of

Jaguar roars past 1,000 a week

Jaguar Cars gave itself a slap on the back today and said it had ended 1986 "in fine style," having broken all previous production records. In the last two full working weeks of the year, the company has made 1,023 and 1,026 Jaguars, passing for the first time the 1,000 cars-a-week mark. This brings the output for the year to 52,385 saloons and 9,852 XJS sports models, a total of 41,437 which is 8 per cent higher than the 38,500 produced in 1985. It is the third consecutive year of record production for the company at its Midlands factories, which now employ 11,000, mostly at the Browns Lane plant in Coventry, West Midlands. Saloon production includes 4,000 of the new XJ40 model, which is proving to be a considerable success in Europe. The car is to be launched on the crucial US market in the spring. Mr Mike Beasley, assistant managing director, said: "To achieve record production in a year when a new model has been introduced is a significant result and reflects the commitment of all our employees to the company's success. "We have striven for some years to meet a growing demand for our products and the indications are that we shall have to aim for even greater production in 1987." Jaguar's profits this year will be held down by the £10 million cost of launching the XJ40 and are unlikely to exceed the 1985 figure of £121.3 million. Meanwhile, government ministers are now studying the newly submitted corporate plan for Jaguar's former parent company, BL - now the Rover Group - in which the chairman, Mr Graham Day, is believed to have put the case for additional state funding while the final restructuring of the group takes place. Rover made losses in excess of £260 million in the first half of this year and Mr Day has argued that additional help is necessary before his plans can be put into operation. While the company has refused to discuss the plan, the options are widely understood to include a much stronger link with Honda of Japan following the recent agreement jointly to produce a new medium car, the AR8. One suggestion is that the Japanese might be interested in taking a stake in the Cowley, Oxfordshire, factory to produce the new car. The commercial vehicle arm, Leyland Vehicles, is expected to be privatized soon. Talks are continuing with Paccor of the US and the Dutch company DAF on the sale of the trucks business.



Small is beautiful: Mr Brown with Mr Harold Silver (left) and Mr Phil Chung.

Top designer joins brain-drain

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor Mr Bryan Brown, at 39 one of Britain's leading design consultants, is leaving the Addison consultancy group, one of the top six companies in its sector, to join a growing trend for top consultants to return to the smaller consultancy field. He has resigned as chairman of Allied International Designers, part of Addison since last September, because, he says, of City investor pressures for short-term profits. He said: "The City is looking for compound growth of 30 per cent a year. That kind of pressure tends to make one think more of profitability rather than about the customers." He added: "It is the wrong sort of pressure. It is not by chance that other consultancy services which are more established, such as in law and accountancy fields, choose to trade as partnerships." His move will fuel the controversy in the design consultancy field over polarisation into larger units on one hand and on the other the role of smaller design groups. In the past year, there have been deletions by directors of a number of bigger consultancies including Fitch, Saunders Design and the Michael Peters Group. Mr Brown, a graphic designer, became managing director of Allied in 1979 and subsequently chairman. Its turnover increased from £715,000 in 1979 to £6.5 million in 1985 and it became Britain's first fully quoted design group. He is chairman of the Co-ordination of British Industry's design group and chairman of the design management group of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers. He is also a regular lecturer at both the London and Manchester business schools. Mr Brown is becoming a partner with the Marketplace Design Partnership (MDP), based in Reading, Berkshire, which was set up 18 months ago by Mr Harold Silverman and Mr Phil Chung who was formerly a board director at Fitch, one of the leading British design consultancies. MDP's clients include Rank, Pan Books, the English Tourist Board and Granada. Under the proposed rescue, the council will become the main shareholder in Freeport Scotland, the operating company. The other existing shareholders are the British Airports Authority, Clydesdale Bank, and two private companies. At the end of October, after running for two years, Prestwick freeport had only one customer. The Scottish freeport at Prestwick airport, which recently ceased operations because of lack of business, could be revived next year with the backing of the district council. Prestwick freeport - one of six experimental free trade zones in Britain - ran into financial difficulties two months ago and had to suspend operations. The Kyle and Carrick district council has now agreed to invest £185,000 in an attempt to start operations again. Originally it was hoped that the zone would create a number of new jobs by attracting high-technology companies from the US. Prestwick is the first of the freeports to cease trading. However, the operator at Cardiff has suspended further investment until the freeport has signed up a definite customer while progress at Belfast has been slow. Only Southampton and Liverpool can claim some level of success. Southampton, which has had 36 countries trading through its facilities, announced yesterday that Sumitomo of Japan is to use the free zone as a European stock-holding base for its cranes.

Council's cash boost to reopen freeport

By Teresa Poole Business Correspondent The Scottish freeport at Prestwick airport, which recently ceased operations because of lack of business, could be revived next year with the backing of the district council. Prestwick freeport - one of six experimental free trade zones in Britain - ran into financial difficulties two months ago and had to suspend operations. The Kyle and Carrick district council has now agreed to invest £185,000 in an attempt to start operations again. Originally it was hoped that the zone would create a number of new jobs by attracting high-technology companies from the US. Prestwick is the first of the freeports to cease trading. However, the operator at Cardiff has suspended further investment until the freeport has signed up a definite customer while progress at Belfast has been slow. Only Southampton and Liverpool can claim some level of success. Southampton, which has had 36 countries trading through its facilities, announced yesterday that Sumitomo of Japan is to use the free zone as a European stock-holding base for its cranes.

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GILT-EDGED

Pass-the-parcel as rates come bumping down

Now that the dust has settled on the changes in the gilt market since Big Bang...

Even though one must allow for the "outside" market-makers becoming "inside"...

For example, there does not seem to have been much business where...

Another symptom of the relatively low level of serious trading business is the way in which turnover is still split...

To make the new year a happy and prosperous one for the gilt market-makers...

Richard Golding Dr Golding is head of bond market research at Kleinwort Grieveson Charlesworth

What an extraordinary business year it has been. When it opened, the Westland drama had yet to reach its unbelievable climax...

Neither Industry Year nor the City's year worked out quite as planned. Industry's main role was to be bought and sold over more frenetically...

Such an eventful year has produced a host of notable individual achievements, many of them intentional. Some will be recognized in the New Year's Honours List...

Several candidates for the top award, that for Supreme Achievement, fell heavily before the end of the race. Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange...

By his combination of unrelenting good humour and toughness in negotiation, Sir Denis has brought his monopoly into the private sector with the minimum of regulation...

As a minor consolation, Sir Nicholas is awarded the Nelson Patch for asserting that the Stock Exchange Big Bang computer problems had been put right after the first day.

There is an even stronger field than usual for our second main award, Capitalist of the Year. In a strong antipodean entry, John Elliott of Elders DXL stands out as achieving more for Allied-Lyons by bidding for it than its board had done for years.



Sir Denis Supreme Achievement award recipient

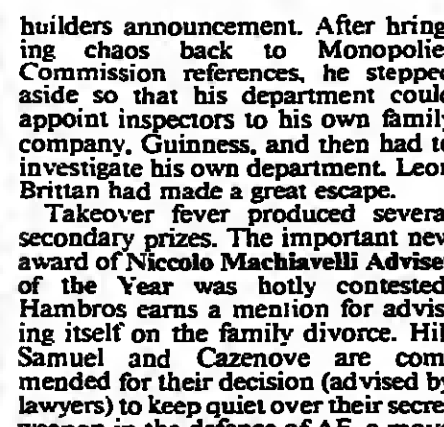
The Westland saga earns chairman Sir John Cuckney the title of Politician of the Year...

A special Rising Capitalist award goes to Richard Branson, who took time off from fast boats to float his Virgin group in the new privatization style...

There are three worthy contenders for the Poisoned Chalice, the last of our three major awards, and by chance they form a chain. At British Shipbuilders, Graham Day passed the blighted cup to the unfortunate Philip Hares...

After a long ministerial career below the parapet, the curse of Westland propelled Mr Channon straight to the dispatch box to unleash the patriotic wrath of the provinces over the plan he announced to sell Leyland Trucks and Land-Rover to General Motors...

The board placed reliance on the wording of section 5(1)(a) of the Industrial Relations Act 1971, which conferred on every worker the right to be a member of "such trade union as he may choose"...



Lord Hanson year's Top Capitalist

Ernest Saunders was an equally strong candidate for his risk-free, high reward strategy but his situation is so fluid that a temporary personal award is called for. Pressing attempts by the column's Scottish division to award the Black Heart have been rejected...

There must be at least have been some obligation to pay or some expectation of receipt to enable one to categorize the non-payment as an "omission" on the part of the board to make such payments.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM, concurring, said that section 23(1)(a) of the 1978 Act was drawn in general terms. It was usually appropriate to treat the general as comprehending the particular unless there was some reason why it should not.

There was no such reason here. It was accepted that the subsection proscribed general manifestations of anti-trade unionism. There was no reason why manifestations of hostility towards a particular trade union should be regarded as any less worthy of prescription.

It did not seem that a general right to be an active trade unionist would be of much value to an employee if he could not join and take part in the activities of his chosen union.

The board's construction would allow an employer to penalise an employee because he was a member of a particular union but not because in such a general trade unionist. This could not be where Parliament had intended to draw the line.

The Foot in Month statuette was sneaked at the winning post by Robert Fleming, who managed to put out a rejection of a higher bid for client Bryant Holdings as inadequate before it had been made.

Competition from Whitehall is fierce for the Rubber Duck prize for flexibility. Nigel Lawson's steadfast pursuit of policies which somehow do not quite seem the same as a year ago needs no commendation here. The Central Statistical Office has made an outstanding contribution by continually changing its mind over the level of invisible exports. It has now made them incalculable as well.

Mr Lawson instead earns the Lady Bountiful Plate for giving away £800 million of taxpayers' money in the TSB. The Golden Narcissus is to be held by Sir Ralph Halpern, who really has done a wonderful job at Burton - though he would be the last to say so -



Mulcahy: Colditz Wooden Horse

and has now ousted BOC's Richard Giordano as Britain's highest paid manager.

We must look abroad for an outstanding winner of the Ballet in Foot plaster cast. Sheikh Yamani wanted to teach irresponsible members of Opec a lesson, so he turned on the oil taps - a powerful demonstration of Saudi power. Unfortunately King Fahd thought differently as the Sheikh's brilliant strategy wrecked the Saudi budget and made it the least popular country in the Gulf.

In Geneva, meanwhile, the Institute for Research and Information on Multinationals earns the unusual award of the Final Loffoff for knowing when to stop. Its director, M Henri Roanne-Rosenblatt, has just announced that IRM will cease its activities from the end of the year on the quixotic ground that its job is done and people now understand multinationals. Now there is a precedent many could usefully follow - and a message for this column.

The last word, and the last prize, should, however, surely go to Ivan Boesky, who earned the Cassandra Sandwich Board for the saying of the year last January. He took the opportunity of a visit to Cambrian & General Securities in London to explain his role as a Robin Hood fighting to get shareholders a better deal. "We look forward to the time when we can provide a service in the UK market as we do at home." Thank you, Mr Boesky and a prosperous accident-free 1987 to all.

Law Report December 29 1986 Miners' differential pay rates against law protecting trade unions

Ridgeway and Another v National Coal Board Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Bingham [Judgment December 16] The National Coal Board in failing to pay to two members of the National Union of Mineworkers wages at the increased rates agreed with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers on January 17, 1986, had acted in breach of section 23(1)(a) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Lord Justice May dissenting) in allowing an appeal by the appellants, Peter Thomas Ridgeway and Paul Fairbrother, against a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (The Times August 14) to allow an appeal by the National Coal Board against a decision of a Leicester industrial tribunal on May 23, 1986 that action had been taken against the appellants in contravention of section 23(1)(a) of the 1978 Act.

Section 23 of the 1978 Act provides: "(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, every employee shall have the right not to have action (short of dismissal) taken against him as an individual by his employer for the purpose - (a) preventing or deterring him from being or seeking to become a member of an independent trade union, or penalising him for doing so..."

appellants would receive payment of the wage increase, duly backdated, agreed with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers on January 17, 1986, non-payment of which had led to their complaints. The board submitted that the outset that the appeal had become academic and should not be entertained. That a decision on the points of construction raised on the appeal would be of assistance in disposing of other complaints made by members of the NUM against the board did not furnish justification for the court proceeding with the appeal if there was no longer any live issue between the parties, even if the decision would be far from academic in other cases.

However, it was not right to regard this as a case where there was no longer any matter in actual controversy. The amount of compensation payable was never agreed, nor had it been considered by the industrial tribunal. The amount of compensation payable was not necessarily limited to the amount of lost wages. Under section 26 of the 1978 Act the amount of compensation was such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable having regard to the infringement of the right under section 23.

The appellants were also asserting a claim for frustration and stress, from having to work alongside others being paid more for doing the same work. They relied on Braxington v Caudon Wholesale Ltd ([1978] ICR 405). They also claimed interest on the unpaid sums. The claims for further compensation were alive and could not be disregarded as stale. The court was

not entitled to refuse to hear the appeal. The first of the four questions raised was whether the failure of the Coal Board to pay the appellants wages at the increased rates constituted "action" short of dismissal. By virtue of the extended meaning given to that word by section 23(1) of the 1978 Act, it included omission. The board submitted that to be an omission the benefit denied must be one which the employee could reasonably expect. That submission could not be accepted. For an act to constitute "action" within section 23 there did not need to be any reasonable expectation that the employer would not so behave. That being so, there was no justification for adding that requirement as a gloss on the language in the statute in the case of an omission. Moreover, to draw the suggested distinction between action and omission could produce absurd results.

The second issue was whether the action was taken against each appellant "as an individual". The board submitted that action was not taken against an employee "as an individual" unless it was directed or targeted against him. That argument was also unacceptable. It seemed reasonable to think that the phrase "as an individual" was included in section 23 of the Employment Protection Act 1975, which was the forerunner of section 23 of the 1978 Act, so as to exclude from the ambit of the right conferred on employees by that section conduct of the kind found in Post Office v Crouch ([1974] 1 WLR 89). Against that background the expression "as an individual" in section 23 was intended to to

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RUGBY UNION: LEICESTER PLAY FAST AND LOOSE IN MARVELLOUS CONTEST OF HEAVENLY PROPORTIONS

Cohesive victory for Barbarians

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

Leicester..... 18
Barbarians..... 22

Rugby, the Australian marketing meo claim, is the game they play in heaven (they do not say whether it is union or league). This was one of the games to back that claim full of beauty, humour and just that touch of steel which turns an exhibition of the game's skills into a contest.

Few of the 15,800 crowd will have left Welford Road on Saturday depressed because their side had lost by two goals to two goals and two penalties, or even because Leicester's ground record had been miffed if they had banked on Leicester's usual 3pm kick-off because three of the five tries came in the first seven minutes in an explosive start matched nearly by an equally explosive finish.

Yet it was no uncharacteristic Leicester performance, betraying a certain brittleness in their play. They began playing fast and loose and they did not change, even though every game demands a period of consolidation. It was the Barbarians instead who settled into the more cohesive unit, particularly among the forwards where they controlled the loose ball.

That in itself was not surprising with two fine flankers, Mathews and Rees, on the field but it was surprising that Leicester's challenge was not to Leicester until the final frenzied minutes when the players into a strong wind, they attacked at least four times from behind their own line.

Leicester, of course, have long been known as risk-takers and the young men of 1986 have eagerly seized the torch handed down by the fine side of five years ago. But there is no Woodward for the final thrust and the advancing years have taken their toll of the speed of Hare and Cusworth. What remains to be enjoyed, however, is the incomparable skills Hare still brings to his line and place-kicking and the untidy possession thrown his way and Dods dealt admirably with a barrage of garrulous. The forwards struggled in all phases of play, particularly in the line-out.

The crucial score - Edinburgh's try - came in the 35th minute when a poor pass from Robertson fell short of Tail. Fiske hacked the ball ahead and over the South line. Tail, having recovered, seemed clearly to beat Fiske to the touchdown but the referee mysteriously awarded the try.

South's try arrived in the sixth minute of injury time as the second half when Iain Paterson drove over from close range. South's forwards were extremely belligerent in defence, some of their tackles drawing gasps from the huge crowd as well as from their opponent's numbers.



Arm wrestling: Leicester's Buttmore being tackled by Harrison as Andrew follows up in the rear (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Weston, wearing his Barbarians committee hat as well as that of an England selector, to watch Carling provide another thoughtful performance at centre, playing this time in the mode of Slack, the Australian captain, as a stand-up link man and midfield flanker, leaving Charvet to create the gaps and Thorburn and Harrison to exploit them. Tiley too was in fine attacking mood, giving Underwood a difficult afternoon.

Leicester's first try was also the last time to which they rucked fluidly twice in succession before Cusworth's diagonal kick was used over the line and Hare was given the touch when a clutch of players by Brian Anderson, whose refereeing complemented the game. When the Barbarians tried to keep the restart in play, Redfern's boot forced Thorburn to concede a line-out on his own line and there was Richards, stretching for the ball and twisting over the line for his

15th club try of the season. Again from the restart Wells just missed a midfield pass and Matthews burst away powerfully before sending Buchanan to the line. That pace could hardly be sustained but the Leicester line was lucky to survive until injury-time, doing so thanks to try-saving tackles by Bates and Wells.

Hare, who maintained a 100 per cent goal-kicking record, pushed over his second try as much time as he could, decided on a dummy from a maul and stepped past two defenders for a smartly-taken try. Leicester's 15-12 half-time advantage looked unlikely to be enough but they conceded a try in the first three minutes of the second half when Evans was off the field for treatment to an Achilles tendon injury. Thorburn gave Harrison space to scoot down the touchline for the score which gave the Barbarians a lead they were not to lose.

But Leicester remained full of running. Evans, Wells, Bates and Roberts carried them from their own in-goal area 80 metres downfield and it is a tribute to the Barbarians' defence that they were held. Wells stormed off from a tapped penalty but again the support was not sufficiently co-ordinated to take maximum advantage. No matter, it had been a marvellous contest.

Someone had brought along a donkey (I saw it being led into the members' bar) and it seemed a donkey's age before anything much happened on the field. But suddenly, Carr motored across from right wing to left to score Park's first try after determined combination between Turner, Anderson and Graves, the former having a cheeky good by to his rival as the crew hurriedly doused their spinner for the following beat. The gesture was desperately premature, and the gods conspired against him, increasing the wind to suit his opponent.

New faces but old story for Bedford

By Gordon Allan

Rosslyn Park..... 15
Bedford..... 12

The second half was 10 times better than the first at Rotherham on Saturday. Rosslyn Park, 6-12 down with a quarter of an hour to go, scraped past Bedford to win their John Smith's merit table B match by two goals and a dropped goal to a goal and two penalty goals.

Both these clubs have experienced their supporters this season by losing games they could have won. Both played rather as if they could not forget it, and numerous times the fact probably highlighted the fact. Co-ordination was lacking.

The Bedford forwards, with Orwio and Davidson in the van, sent back a stream of possession from line-out into the hands of the forwards only fiddled with it. Park on the other hand knew that their own main strength lay behind the scrum, but on too many occasions they flicked or made the wrong decisions.

Someone had brought along a donkey (I saw it being led into the members' bar) and it seemed a donkey's age before anything much happened on the field. But suddenly, Carr motored across from right wing to left to score Park's first try after determined combination between Turner, Anderson and Graves, the former having a cheeky good by to his rival as the crew hurriedly doused their spinner for the following beat. The gesture was desperately premature, and the gods conspired against him, increasing the wind to suit his opponent.

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Gloucester cut to the quick

By Bryan Stiles

Gloucester..... 15
Newport..... 29

Newport completed their fourth double in successive games bringing Gloucester's current revival to a painful end on Saturday.

The Welshmen's application was a joy to watch as they took the restart out of the Gloucester defence with clinical efficiency in the first half hour. Gloucester managed to narrow the gap before succumbing by three goals, two tries and a penalty to two goals and a penalty.

McWilliams opened the Newport account with a neat try after a flowing three-quarter movement. George added another after a simple back row manoeuvre. Newport rounded off the opening session with a try.

Turner's conversions gave Newport a 22-point lead and they relaxed, but paid a price. With Gloucester's main provider, Gloucester besieged the Newport line for the last 10 minutes of the first half, sending Gloucester over from a tapped penalty.

Gloucester came out for a second half still all right and up and down. Gloucester's try in the corner, again from a tapped penalty, was their only consolation. Gloucester's defence was not up to the task, and they were unable to prevent Newport from scoring a second try in the second half.

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Cardiff's uninspiring trifle

By Gerald Davies

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Bridgend..... 9

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But they are beginning to look more and more as if they are a team to be trifled with and but for Norster and Scott, both of whom are under the microscope for the accurate throwing in of Phillips at the line-out, in the second half particularly, they could quite easily have gone the other way.

Geraint John kicked three penalties to counter to Bridgend's goal and a penalty. The hot-dog fend, my son, went in search of his customary mid-afternoon snack, failed, returned, and vented his disappointment on the referee.

Wondering, in a whisper I may add, why he blew up so often and stopped the play. The referee, particularly encouraging development in one so young, but, it so appeared, there were others round about who had similar observations to make, more tactically and more tactically.

John kicked a penalty to put Cardiff into the lead after a minute. But, with a wind from across the Taff in their favour, Bridgend had the most of the rest of the half. They had quite a few exciting combined movements but they were not to be recalled for an infrequent. Not to be denied, from the following scrum, Garth Williams picked up, turned to go one way and fed Griffiths going the other. The scrum half twisted and wriggled his way over the line for the try. Jones converted from close to the touchline and, soon after, added a penalty.

The visitors were beginning to move quite nicely. We might yet get to see whether John Devereux, whose first major match this was after his spate of recent injuries, can make a claim for a place in the Welsh team against Ireland in the next few weeks' time. The two referees present, Tony Gray and R H Williams, will have learned little.

Nothing else of much note happened in the second half, so untypical of the excitement usually generated in matches between these two clubs. Geraint John simply took his chances to kick two penalties to make a draw of it.

Condor was expected to pose a strong challenge for handicap honours too. This would be the first time that a yacht has won the double for six years, but Bob Bell's principal goal of smashing Kialoa III's nine-year-old passage record for the race must come with the first mile of the course.

Fylde lucky winners

By Michael Stevenson

Fylde..... 22
Sheffield..... 17

Fylde, facing 14 men deep in injury time at a single point, were still trailing by an angle point, when their excellent scrum, their scrum half, chipped deftly and his speed won the race and the match to leave Sheffield unlucky losers.

Halfway through the second half the Sheffield hooker, Adcock, was sent off for stamping, thereafter Sheffield's defence was positively heroic, and allied to some tactical ineptitude by Fylde, it looked to have earned victory.

Fylde, scoring two goals, a try and two penalties to a goal, two tries and a penalty, were handicapped by the continued absence of their main players, their England and Lions lock.

It was 13-7 at half-time. David Holmes opened Sheffield's scoring with a typical blindside try but immediately Hanavan and Simon Holmes put Fylde in the lead, with a searing break by the talented fly half Burnage created

Hanavan's 27th try of the season, before Burnage for Fylde and Goodlife exchanged penalties. With the wind behind them, Fylde changed their tactics, largely by using Burnage's speed to lose half in his excellent backs and rifled kick after kick, good, bad and indifferent, down the diagonal breeze.

Sheffield, keen on counter-attack, began to dominate. Burnage missed touch, Crood lifted open and the strong-running Grievie was in for a try, followed almost immediately by a powerful burst from Pierce and a try by Adcock, which Goodlife converted. Burnage pulled back with a penalty and Prestoo's Houdini act and Burnage's conversion encouraged Fylde to breathe again.

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Tenacious abilities reward Beashel and Conner richly

From Barry Pickhall, Fremantle

The best racing seen so far to the America's Cup - that was the general prognosis in Fremantle yesterday after record crowds watched the choppy waters off Gage Roads to watch two exciting duels between Australia IV and Kookaburra II led Stars and Stripes and Ill, that Stars and Stripes won by 12 seconds - two closely-fought battles that remained in doubt right up to the finish.

While New Zealand IV, skippered by Chris Dickson, continued her winning ways by beating French Kiss by 2min 46sec in the first of her best-of-seven semi-final clashes, and Kookaburra II led Stars and Stripes to a 12-2 victory in her race against her Australian rival, Steak 'n' Kidney, Deoivi Conner, the skipper of Stars and Stripes, and Alan Bond's helmsman, John Beashel, both gained rich rewards for their tenacity.

In the Conner-Torn Blackaller match, billed here as the grudge battle, neither Californian could force a win. Conner, who lost the start by four seconds but soon gained back two boat-lengths ahead of Stars and Stripes.

On the following run, the twin-riggered San Francisco 12-metre drew a further seven seconds ahead, an advance that encouraged her silver-haired skipper to have a cheeky good by to his rival as the crew hurriedly doused their spinner for the following beat. The gesture was desperately premature, and the gods conspired against him, increasing the wind to suit his opponent.

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Calder twins star in capital show

By Ian McLauchlan

South of Scotland..... 18
Edinburgh..... 21

Edinburgh won the McEwan's inter-district championship outright for the first time since 1980. The closeness of the scoreline belies the superiority of an Edinburgh team, led by their back-row twins, Finlay and Jim Calder, and Rafferty, all of whom disrupted South's incoherent possession and provided a stream of good loose ball.

Clare and Willie played their most illustrious opponents, Laidlaw and Rutherford. The Edinburgh centres, Kennedy and Scott Hastings, were extremely belligerent in defence, some of their tackles drawing gasps from the huge crowd as well as from their opponent's numbers.

To crown a good day for the capital, Gavin Hastings was on song with his place-kicking, scoring four penalties, a drop goal and a conversion for a total of 17 points. His counterpart, Dods, ended with only three points less from four penalties and one conversion.

For South, Rutherford and Robertson looked strangely ill at ease and made many unforced errors. Laidlaw made much of the untidy possession thrown his way and Dods dealt admirably with a barrage of garrulous. The forwards struggled in all phases of play, particularly in the line-out.

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By Bryan Stiles

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Newport..... 29

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Anglo cheer from Scots

By Nicholas Keith

Anglo-Scots..... 11
Glasgow..... 10

It is reassuring for an Englishman to know that, with the international trials less than a week away, Scotland seem as little prepared as anyone for the five-nation championship.

There was a distinct Cambridge feeling about the Anglo's back row, where the reliable Mackin was impressive. The first half was dominated by Glasgow, who might have tied up the match if Calata reaped rapidly with a try by Beazley from a pass by Mackin. In a late flurry Russell levelled

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Middlesex the victors

By Gordon Allen

Eastern Counties..... 0
Middlesex..... 8

Middlesex beat Eastern Counties by two tries to one in their schoolboys 18 Group match at the Ilford Wanderers ground yesterday.

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FOOTBALL: THE LATEST ENGLISH KNIGHT ERRANT TO TRY TO CONQUER A NOBLE SCOTTISH SEAT CELEBRATES VICTORY TO THE MANNER BORN

Roberts a true blue blood of Rangers

Bowler's century is timely relief for frantic Forest

By Dennis Shaw

Nottingham Forest 2
Luton Town 2

Two teams with high-flying ambitions met each other on the rebound from Boxing Day defeats to produce a result that was the roughest of rough justice, with Forest salvaging the equaliser in injury time.

Having kicked-off in search of victory to get back in touch with the top of the table, Forest were forced to settle for frantic survival.

It came in the shape of Bowyer, their captain, with his 100th league goal. "I saw the 90 minutes shining on the electronic scoreboard and I thought we would get nothing," he said.

To describe Luton's draw as lucky would be uncharitable since they did muster two perfectly good goals. Yet, that apart, the scoreline mis-represented the game.

The contrast between the two performances was startling. Forest attacked feverishly from the first kick to the last, yet trailed twice. Conversely, Luton were forced to defend, often with ten men in their own area, yet conjured two goals like rabbits from a magician's top-hat.

The tone was set by Forest when Webb had a goal disallowed early on; Luton then went ahead through a pin-ball affair. Grimes' corner found its way into the net by means of ricochet headers by Harford and then Brian Stein on the line.

Harford was back for his first game of the season and that lethal head of his had made his mark within 13 minutes. However he had little chance to offer more since Forest had the ball most of the time.

Ironically, Forest's barrage of Forest attacking took an hour to provide an equaliser. All else had failed when Walker went on a long run out of defence to feed the mercurial Carr.

It was appropriate he should be involved since he had heaved energetically throughout. Carr's shot hit Campbell and rebounded for Nigel Clough to stab in.

At last it seemed Forest could search for the win to keep pace with Everton, in action elsewhere. In truth, though, it was lucky Luton at it again when a long upfield punt by Sealey released Newell, who galloped forward and beat Segers.

Bowler's equaliser was a hopeful 20-man assault through crowded goalmouth. What Forest had needed most of all was a measure of composure to control all that dash.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: H. Segers, G. Flaming, S. Pearce, O. Walker, C. Fothergill, B. Carr, N. Webb, N. Clough, D. Campbell, G. Mills.

LUTON TOWN: L. Searley, T. Brackner, R. Johnson, P. Johnson, M. Donaghy, R. Wilson (capt.), M. Smith, M. Newell, M. Harford, A. Grimes. Referee: M. Hoyle (Salisbury).

Nottingham Forest 2 Luton Town 2

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McGinnis and genius: Roberts (right), the new toast of Ibrox (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

By Clive White
The new captain of The Rangers emerged from the dignified and incongruous splendour of the club's foyer into the dreary street to the resounding cheers of his followers. There are few celebrities in Glasgow more popular these days than the Englishman, Terry Butcher.

Wading his way knee-deep through his younger fans like a gentle giant, after painstakingly signing every scrap of paper in sight, Butcher declared: "I'm so happy here I wouldn't mind finishing my career with Rangers. The chairman wants me to sign for longer than my four-year contract."

For Butcher, who was 28 yesterday, Rangers is home from home as it is for four other Sassenachs, Colin West, Chris Woods, Neil Woods and, most recently, Graham Roberts, who made an almost idyllic debut for the club on Saturday in a 2-0 win against Dundee United which lifted them into second place behind Celtic in the premier division.

The English international triumvirate of Woods, Butcher and Roberts provided the cornerstone of this Ibrox victory. Roberts helped create the first goal and was indirectly responsible for the second.

He admitted to being unusually nervous during the 24 hours leading up to the game. He wisely made a point of waving to supporters on either side of the ground during the warm-up and the response he got must have encouraged him.

"I had a good rapport with the crowd at White Hart Lane but they took their time supporting you. This lot are singing from the first minute. They're fantastic," Roberts said, a sentiment which Butcher and Woods agreed.

Roberts' first contribution was a throw-in from which the ball slipped out of his hands straight into an opponent. "Don't tell me we've paid £450,000 for a long-trove specialist," one dubious critic said. Three minutes later,

Roberts, with a foot carelessly high, left Sturrock writhing on the ground. "Great player," the same critic exclaimed.

Given room by a defensive performance from Dundee United, Roberts was able to demonstrate to the home supporters the more creative qualities which Tottenham Hotspur eventually extracted from this former dock worker.

His accurately flighted ball to the head of McCoist just before half-time deserved a more successful finish but two minutes into the second half the Scots were given a taste of vintage Roberts, as rough and potent as unrefined whisky.

Surgingly out of defence, he harassed McInally into error and chased a back-pass all the way to Thomson, the goalkeeper, who inevitably lost out in the brawny head-on confrontation. The ball rebounded to McCoist, who this time accepted his new team colleague's offering. Roberts celebrated as though Rangers had been in his blood since birth.

Not a moan from the 42,000 crowd

Butcher also took the opportunity to make amends with the second goal. In the 25th minute he had strayed offside when Souless, the player-manager, making a rare appearance between transfer coups, drove a shot beneath the body of Thomson which did nothing to help stop the jibes about Scottish goalkeepers.

If Butcher's popularity was ever in doubt, he would have known about it then. But there was not a single moan from the 42,000 crowd. Now, after Roberts had been fouled, he stroked a free kick to the far post for McCoist to flick on a back-header and Fleck to drive home. When the final whistle blew Roberts again wisely applauded the dotting thousands.

He continued to do and say all the right things at the after-match press conference, sensibly uprating by the end of it.

his view of how Rangers would do in the English first division from "quite well" to "very well". The fact that he was one of few English players to go up and watch the Skol Cup final earlier in the season was noted appreciatively.

The Englishmen have clearly been taken aback by the reception they have been given. Butcher has settled quickly. Even his parents are thinking of moving north of the Border. Woods, who arrived before Butcher, still has half his furniture in storage and Roberts moves temporarily into a club house next week.

The English defenders have brought some stability to Rangers, who were recording their seventh successive clean sheet. "We're very composed at the back. It's going to take an exceptional team to break us down," Woods said.

Souless, with his vast knowledge of European football, is rumoured to be looking to add a dash of Continental attacking flair to the mixture in his attempt to turn Rangers into a truly European force. English clubs, suspended in isolation, can only look on enviously.

"I've come to a club which can be the greatest in the world," Butcher said. "Football is more of a spectator sport here. It's a marvellous environment to play in, fiercely competitive. You don't get much time on the ball and, of course, everybody wants to beat you. You've got to be on your toes."

As someone remarked, it is a great time to be a Celtic player: you can beat Rangers and England on the same day. After three failures this season Celtic get the chance to put the theory to the test again at Ibrox on New Year's Day.

RANGERS: G. Woods, G. Roberts, B. Murray, G. Souless, O. McPherson, I. Gatchell, G. Ferguson, R. Fleck, A. McCoist, I. Durrant, O. Connor.

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Wednesday caught on the rebound

By David Powell

Sheffield Wednesday .. 0
Liverpool .. 1

If there is one thing harder than a match against Liverpool, it is a match against Liverpool when they have just been beaten. Some 26 months ago, Liverpool were the champions last suffered two successive league defeats and this season they have been especially merciless to those trying to kick them while they are down.

At Hillsborough on Saturday, Sheffield Wednesday were the latest to feel the reprobation. Needing a win themselves to regain a foothold on the championship ladder, they started resolutely but fell to the type of goal that Rust scores and others miss.

It may be no consolation to Wednesday, but at least they kept the score down to one. Liverpool's previous league defeats this season (and they came to Sheffield after the most stinging a home reverse since Manchester United) have been followed by three, four, five and six-goal performances.

It was a dour game, played on a chilly rain-swept afternoon, illuminated only by Rust's goal as a spasm of skill from Welsh and McMahon. Had it not been for his bright yellow tie and

Brown's view a waste of time

By Nicholas Harling

Manchester United .. 0
Norwich City .. 1

If the saddest sight of Saturday's match was seeing Bryan Robson again escorted off the field with a hamstring injury, the second most disappointing aspect was that Norwich City should be regarded as playing with discipline and authority, as Ken Brown, their manager put it. This was after blatant time-wasting by their goalkeeper which infuriated, among others, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, for whom it was a first home defeat.

But when, like Norwich, you have never won at Old Trafford and your last league goal on the famous ground was scored in 1976, you probably believe you are entitled to resort to whatever means, however dubious, to achieve your result.

Norwich might not have been presented with their chance had Robson not hurt himself trying to dispossess Crook. Robson seemed to be in the middle of providing further confirmation that he is made for the role of central defender when his jinx returned.

With Moran, Hogg and McGrath missing, Ferguson

faces a problem finding a pairing for the fixtures against Newcastle and Southampton. Either Stapleton, who dropped back to protect Carron, or Duxbury, who has played there before, seems the obvious solution to line up alongside Garton.

Having to reorganise was one thing for United. Finding themselves stretched at the back in their characteristic search for a winner, when other teams in their plight might have settled for playing out time, was quite another. It was in the 81st minute that Garton utilized the advantage with a swift ball out to Culverhouse, whose low centre was met by Drinkell's plunging header.

Drinkell was seen to blot his copybook with a tackle on Strachan that earned him a booking. It was from Strachan that United created most of their chances, none of which were as good as that from which Davenport put Gibson through to be beaten by Gunn's spreadeagled body in the closing minutes.

MANCHESTER UNITED: G. Walsh, J. Sheehan, G. Carron, N. Whittaker, W. Barton, M. Duxbury, B. Robson (capt.), O'Brien, O. Strachan, F. Simpson, P. Davenport, J. Olsen.

NORWICH CITY: B. Gunn, K. Drinkell, W. Barton, M. Duxbury, B. Robson (capt.), O'Brien, O. Strachan, F. Simpson, P. Davenport, J. Olsen.

A glimmer of hope boosts Chelsea

By Simon Jones

Chelsea .. 4
Aston Villa .. 1

Chelsea can look forward to 1987 with some encouragement, having saved up their best performance of the old year until its last Saturday. A game which on paper had promised about as much fun as a visit to the dentist, turned out to be surprisingly entertaining.

Though it was by no means a classic, Chelsea had that little piece of luck which so often deserts teams which are struggling. In the seventh minute, the right side having made a typically edgy opening, the referee awarded a penalty when Keown did no more than run into Nevin's heels. Spickman, at least, showed no nerves as he took the first ball, he found the kick, hitting the ball hard into the roof of the net.

After that start, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, Spink, could have been excused for seeming rather dazed and, midway through the first half, he found himself further disorientated after a fierce challenge from Speedie. For some minutes he wandered around clutching his head like someone who had been to one party too many.

A minute before the interval Dixon prodded in his first goal

for 12 League games, the ball having ricocheted around the six-yard box as if it were in a pinball machine. From that moment Chelsea began to rediscover their zest. They shrugged off the earlier loss of McLaughlin and opted for containing Villa while looking for opportunities to counter-attack at speed.

There could have been no better illustration of the power of confidence than the fourth Chelsea goal - Pates having headed in their third when Spink somehow got lost on the way out for Wegerle's corner. Speedie had the entire Villa defence moving to the right as he turned to the left and when his cross came over Dixon, no longer weighed down by uncertainty, jumped to score with something like his old authority.

So Chelsea move off the bottom of the league as Villa top closer to it. But the midfielders should not panic. Though their defence is becoming worryingly fallible again, their football is tidy and thoughtful, as they demonstrated in a late goal by Elliott.

ASTON VILLA: N. Spink, G. Williams, A. Dore, M. Keown, P. Elliott, S. Sealey, P. Brock (capt.), A. Daley, O. Thompson, A. Gray, S. Hart, M. Walters. Referee: O. Keast.

CHELSEA: P. W. O. L. F. A. Pts. Rangers 28, 17, 2, 51, 10, 41. Dundee 26, 12, 4, 35, 14, 35. Aberdeen 25, 12, 4, 35, 14, 35. Dundee 26, 12, 4, 35, 14, 35. Aberdeen 25, 12, 4, 35, 14, 35.

Drake might have broken the duck

By Vince Wright

Arsenal .. 1
Southampton .. 0

Ted Drake and Reg Lewis, great goal-scoring duo of Arsenal, were among many former Arsenal players introduced to the crowd at half-time as part of the club's centenary celebrations. It was tempting to suggest that both of them should have been sent on against Southampton because the one thing that Arsenal could not do in the first half was score.

Arsenal's bad luck continued until the 73rd minute. By that time they were running out of ideas and the home supporters were growing impatient. It needed a touch of inspiration to unlock Southampton's resolute defence and it was Williams, facing his old club, who provided it.

Receiving the ball in space about 30 yards out, he advanced a few yards before unleashing a hammering of a shot which beat Nixon and rebounded from the post to Quinn, who seized on the chance to score his sixth goal in nine games.

This was just reward for the tall, lanky forward who is becoming a real handful for some of the country's most experienced defenders. If he maintains this rate of progress he could yet save Arsenal's manager, George Graham, an excursion into the transfer market.

Goram and Fightbacks Day keep Leeds alive good show

By Steve Bates

Oldham Athletic .. 0
Leeds United .. 1

Joe Royle could hardly be blamed for believing that the Christmas glow which perpetually haunts his Oldham team has returned to signal the decline of their promotion hopes. But after watching his side outplay Leeds and still suffer defeat, the festive season has again played a cruel trick on one of the second division's best sides.

Oldham, who started the holiday period on top but are now third after reaping one point from two games, would do well to heed the words of their astute manager who remarked later: "As long as we keep our shape there will be no problems. We can still go top if we win our game at home."

Having created enough chances to have sewn up victory by half-time, Oldham, with three wins over Leeds already this season, let the shock of Ritchie's 35th-minute goal upset their intelligent approach-play and resorted to a more direct but less effective long-ball policy.

But it was Mervyn Day, the Leeds goalkeeper, who was largely responsible for initiating Oldham's downfall. He proved a string of quality saves, but now they have lost it again. Twice West Ham led, through Coote and Hilton, and twice Wimbledon equalized, through Fashanu and Saylor.

The decisive goal came 18 minutes from the end from Fairweather, leaving John Lyall, the West Ham manager, with a number of problems to solve. For the sixth time this season Oldham United finished a match with 10 men, their latest scolding-off being that of Briggs during the 1-0 home defeat against Queens Park Rangers. Amid mutterings of a referees' conspiracy against the club, Briggs said afterwards: "We are not even a physical side and I cannot believe what happened."

Briggs' dismissal was one of five in the weekend which took the total for the season to 102.

Moving on to the fringes of the championship race, Westford, whose 1-0 win over Newcastle United underlined the effectiveness of Barnes in his new-found role of central forward, Barnes scored his third goal in five games.

Derby County were another team who saved the best until last, when they recovered from a 2-0 deficit against Barnsley to win 3-2.

Table with 10 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows include Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester City, Tottenham, etc.

Table with 10 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows include Brighton, Derby County, Huddersfield, etc.

Table with 10 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows include Birmingham, Blackburn, Bradford, etc.

Table with 10 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows include Aldershot, Barnet, Boreham Wood, etc.

Table with 10 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows include Aberdeen, Dundee, Dundee United, etc.

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POOLS CHECK CHART

Large grid table for pool check chart with multiple columns and rows.

SPORT

England aglow with Ashes triumph

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

England retained the Ashes here yesterday when they won the fourth Test match by an innings and 14 runs with more than two whole days to spare. Having bowled Australia out in three hours 55 minutes on the first day, they took only 45 minutes longer to bowl Australia's last six wickets falling for 41 runs in 18.4 overs.

The less said about Australia's batting the better. The omission of Ritchie had left them in the first place with only four front-line batsmen, much to Border's regret and England's delight. England had Botham at No 6 and Australia had Matthews, between whom there is no comparison.

Mike Gatting spoke after the match of a great effort by all his players, and so it was. Not least, England fielded splendidly. For an England captain, it is a fine moment when he is assured of taking the Ashes home from Australia. In all this century, only Warner, Douglas, Chapman, Jardine, Hutton, Illingworth and Blearley have savoured it. Gatting was not chaired off the field or anything like that, but that was because at the end England had met with such little resistance.

Gatting said that he had not enjoyed every moment of his captaincy (who does?) but he was enjoying yesterday all right. It made a joyful ending to what has been for the most part a depressing year for England. For Australia, it was their fourteenth successive Test match without a victory, three more than they have ever gone before. Border said he felt less upset about yesterday's defeat than the one in Brisbane when Australia's hopes had been so high. "I've steered myself to it," was his rather fatalistic appraisal.

Border is "opposed to wholesale sacking" of his players, believing that the talent is there if they can get the balance of their side right and find the necessary confidence. He talked of the "mur" that Australia have got into and rated England as being as good as any of their sides he has played against. While Gatting made a special reference to Reid's excellent bowling, Border did so to Small's. In his first Test of the series, Small was made Man of the Match ahead of Botham and Border.

For a while yesterday afternoon when, almost without carshot, Cash was two sets down to Perros, it looked horribly as though Australia would lose the Davis Cup final and the Ashes on the same day. Had the America's Cup then gone as well, as it will may in February, the whole country would have been cast into the deepest gloom.

But Cash did his stuff in the end, the last two or three games there coinciding with the tea interval at the cricket and being watched on the video screen by the crowd of 23,463.

The total attendance at the Test match of 107,817 was as much of a disappointment to

the Australian Cricket Board as the result was to its selectors. The match was won and lost on the first day, when Australia were bowled out for 141. Had they made even 250 then, they would have put England under more pressure and a typically close-fought Melbourne Test match might have resulted. Yesterday they passed 100 with only two wickets down and Marsh and Border playing well, but it had always seemed only a matter of time before the rot set in.

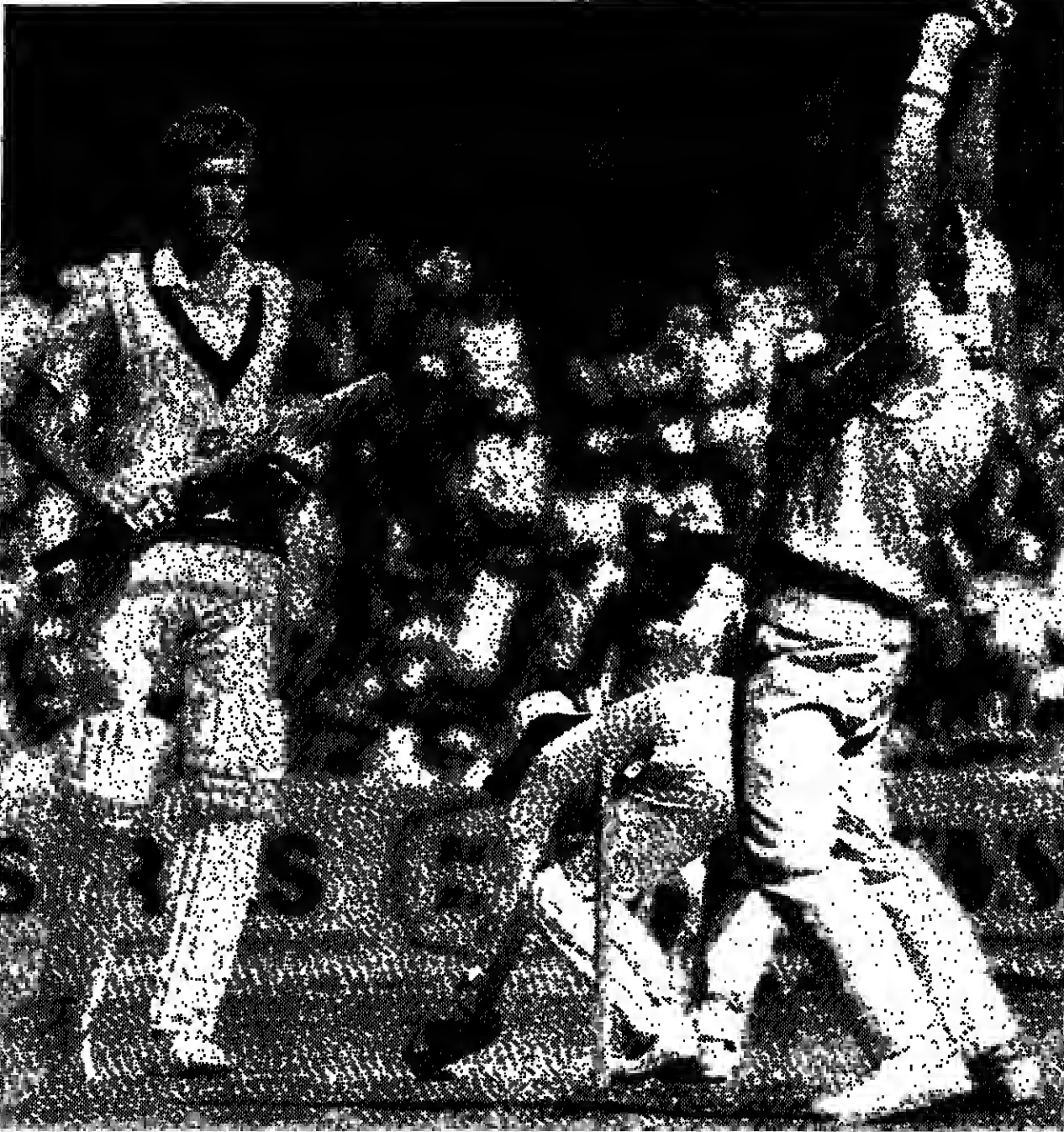
Varying bounce and lateral movement mean that the Melbourne pitch at this time of year is seldom one on which a batsman knows quite what to expect next. The surprise now was that the England seamers took only the first

dashing strokes. Jones was slashing at something not quite wide and short enough to warrant it. Jones is establishing himself, one the less, as a cricketer to be reckoned with. By lunch Marsh and Border had taken Australia to 87 for 2. They were going along quite encouragingly afterwards when the best of the slip catches taken in the match accounted for Border, Embury holding two-handed to his right, a ball that was travelling like lightning. At 113 for 3, with Border gone, England had broken the back of their task, even with Marsh still playing the same sort of game that Broad had for England.

There was still work to be done, even so, and when Marsh and Waugh had made 40 together for the fourth wicket, without many alarms, there happened an incident that England could well have allowed to upset them. They were, in fact, doing so, when in the same over they were able to forget it. First Marsh was given in by umpire French when he was fairly obviously caught at short leg off Embury, off bat or glove and with no pad involved. In situations like this, Gatting is not good at telling his side to get on with the game. But two balls later Marsh played Embury into the covers, started for a run, stopped and started again. By the time Marsh finally turned back, Edmonds's accurate return had left him hopelessly stranded. Justice, if fancy, was done. Marsh, like Jones, is coming on quite well.

In Embury's next over Matthews was bowled off his pad, playing oo stroke. At tea Australia were 159 for five, Waugh, who was playing well, being 37. A more remarkable run-out followed soon afterwards when Sleep was sent back by the striker, Waugh. Swooping in from mid-wicket, Gower aimed an underarm return to Edmonds, the bowler. The ball, after sticking in Gower's palm, lobbed slowly, high and wide, to Edmonds's right. Edmonds finished by slipping at the stumps from perhaps three yards and hitting them. Sleep was still just out. All that remained to be decided after that was whether Australia could save the innings defeat. Needing 208 to do so, they lost Zoehrer at 180 to a tumbling catch at short leg off Edmonds. At 189 McDermott was bowled by Embury's arm ball, and when, at 194, Hughes swept Edmonds to deep square leg it was all over. Not since 1901-02 had a Test match between England and Australia in Australia been finished in three days. It happened then in Sydney, England winning by an innings and 124 after Barnes, Braund and Blythe, all playing their first game for England, had bowled out an Australian side containing Trumper, Noble and Clem Hill for 168 and 172.

England had had enough trouble making 349 on Saturday for Australia's batsmen



Moment of victory: Reid, Australia's not out batsman, turns to face an ecstatic Botham as the Ashes are retained

not to have liked what they saw. It was a good total for Melbourne, built on another hundred by Broad and exceeded by England in only three of the 16 Test matches they have ever played here since the war. Gatting had the utmost difficulty getting to 40; Lamb's 43 was hard work; and Botham, who batted for 85 minutes, was never able to cut loose. Broad, however, soldiered on, joining in the process Hobbs and Hammond as the only other Englishman to have made centuries in three

successive Tests in the same rubber. Woolmer also got three in three Tests against Australia, but in two different series. This is a remarkable achievement by Broad, based on a good temperament, application, opportunism, a workmanlike technique and the height to scotch the extra bounce of Australian pitches. It is simple enough to point to the lack of quality in the Australian attack as being another factor, but it was nothing like so weak on Saturday as to be easy meat.

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA TEST AVERAGES

Table with columns for England and Australia, sub-sections for Batting and Fielding, and Bowling. It lists player names and their statistics across various categories.

Reid and Hughes bowled some excellent overs, often without luck, and none of England's right-handed batsmen played Sleep's wrist spin with anything like the same certainty as the left-handed Broad. McDermott, who improved his bowling figures by taking the last three England wickets, may wonder in years to come, when he watches a film of the day's play, how he was not in the hands of a psychiatrist. Not even Lillee at his worst used to behave with a more reckless passion when bowling for Australia.

Table with columns for England and Australia, sub-sections for Batting and Fielding, and Bowling. It lists player names and their statistics across various categories.

How sides compare in the '80s

The table below, showing the record of each of the Test-playing countries since 1980 and ranking them according to the percentage of victories, accurately reflects the state of current world cricket (Richard Lockwood writes).

Table showing Test records since 1980 for various countries including West Indies, New Zealand, Pakistan, England, Australia, and Sri Lanka. Columns include P, W, L, O, T, %.

Gatting pays tribute to Small

Melbourne (Press Association) - Mike Gatting, the England captain, was drenched in victory champagne within minutes of England's Ashes triumph over Australia yesterday. "I'm overjoyed," he said. "It was tremendous - a great effort by everyone. It's the greatest moment of my career, apart from playing my first Test for England."

Gatting paid special tribute to Gladstone Small, who played at Melbourne only because Graham Dilley failed a fitness check on Friday. "I had no qualms about putting him in," he said. "Gladstone has been in good form all four and I'm very pleased for him. It was a difficult decision between him and Neil Foster, but I knew neither of them would let us down."

Gatting, who took over as England captain when David Gower was dismissed last summer, has now landed cricket's oldest prize in only his ninth Test as leader. "We came here to win the Ashes and we've done it. That's a marvellous feeling," he said. He admitted, however: "It's been hard work and I haven't enjoyed the captaincy aspect a lot of the time to be honest. But the tour has been very happy and let's hope it continues that way. I don't think it will be difficult to motivate the players from here on because we've got the Ashes. We shall go into the fifth Test at Sydney looking to win."

Allan Border, the Australian captain, said he would not be resigning despite speculation about his future following the defeat. He said: "I feel numb. I don't like losing but there's no point in getting distraught. I've got to hang in there. I'm determined to see it out and hopefully things will get better."

Border's record as captain now reads: won three, tied one, lost nine and drawn 12. He said: "You get used to losing and playing badly. It will take a good win to break the ice. We are doing so many things badly and I can't put my finger on the reason why. I don't feel as dispirited as I did after the first Test. I stole myself for it." Border revealed, however, that he was unhappy with the side he picked by Australia's selectors for the fourth Test. They chose to omit Greg Ritchie, a specialist batsman, when most judges believed that Greg Matthews, the all-rounder, should have been the man to stand down. Gatting said of Border: "It must be very hard on him. He's been one of the best Australian players for a long time. Now he's lost a series he thought he should win and I can imagine how he feels."

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Linguaphone advertisement featuring an image of a cassette player and text describing the benefits of their language courses.

Robson set for long injury spell

Bryan Robson faces a two-month absence after a hamstring tear which is casting increasing doubts over his career (Steve Bates writes). The Manchester United and England captain broke down 49 minutes into Saturday's game with Norwich after stretching for a tackle which damaged the hamstring for the sixth time in 14 months.

Immediate reports that the £2m midfielder would be back within four weeks were dispelled yesterday when the dejected player said: "At first the manager thought the injury was at the bottom of the muscle but it's more towards the top area which has given me so much trouble before."

While Robson was reluctant to place a time-limit on his recovery, the seriousness of the set-back indicates a much longer rehabilitation period and is a blow for Alex Ferguson, the manager, who is eager to improve United's league position. Since his arrival, Ferguson has tried to eradicate the hamstring injuries which plagued the club under his predecessor, Ron Atkinson. Robson's suggests that the player has a worsening problem. "It's a nightmare for us but I won't be panicked into buying a replacement for Robson," Ferguson said yesterday. "My big problem at the moment is to get Kevin Moran fit for the game against Newcastle because my two other central halves are still struggling."

Charlton enjoy a goal spree

most of the season through injury, added some calming touches, though his team mates were often on a different wavelength. For their part, City offered very little in the way of flair or imagination, and looked a sorry sight. Charlton took a deserved lead with a cracking first goal by Colin Walsh in the 25th minute. Walsh, out wide on the left side of the penalty area, was teasing John Gidman, City's right back, who like everybody else expected a cross. Walsh, however, unleashed an unstoppable left-foot drive that rebounded off the post and into the net.

After half-time Charlton thundered on, dismissing any doubts that the added pressure of starting the game at the foot of the table would affect them. Two minutes after the half-time interval Walsh added a second with a rasping 20-yard free kick. Jim Melrose scored a fine third goal on the hour, a right-footed curling shot that dipped into the net at the far post. Then, Charlton's central defender, Peter Shirriff, not one to be left out, seized upon a loose ball in the six-yard box to make it four. George Shipley completed City's humiliation with a fifth goal, slipping in to convert from four yards in the 82nd minute.

FA charge Gilbert Billy Gilbert and Mick Tait, two of the three Portsmouth players sent off at Sheffield United in the last fortnight, have been charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute. Automatically banned for their dismissals, they now face fines or additional suspensions from the FA for allegedly making remarks to the referee, Kelvin Morton. Snowed off Konigsberg (Reuter) - The first two runs in a World Cup two-man bobsleigh race were called off yesterday because of heavy snow. The race will be held today over three runs instead of the usual four.

Everton have the look of champions

Everton dismantled Leicester City at Goodison Park yesterday with the elegance and authority which must have instilled a mood of forboding amongst this season's championship contenders. Howard Kendall's men displayed all the hallmarks of champions elect and on the evidence of their second four-goal triumph in three days only the brave or foolish would disagree. Even without the injured Reid and Bracewell, Everton's midfield functioned so smoothly and productively that Heath and Wilkinson could each have scored three goals instead of the four they shared.

The Leicester manager, Bryan Hamilton, was gushing in his praise of the club he once played for, saying later: "They were fantastic and in a different class to us. They are the best team in Britain and it was men against boys. They are a quality side and the best we've played."

With maximum points from their Christmas programme, Everton have reached the New Year fuelled by the desire to capture the title snatched from them by their Merseyside neighbours' magnificent run last season. That determination was evident from the start against a confidence-stricken Leicester side dumped on the bottom of the division by Everton's sweeping football. It was Heath, scoring his 12th and 13th goals of the season to take his haul to a prolific 10 in 10 games, who

FA charge Gilbert

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Leaving home

Brisbane (AFP) - Hana Mandlikova, the Czechoslovak tennis player, confirmed that she has applied for Australian citizenship. The No. 1 seed in the Women's Classic which begins here today said she expected her application to be granted within four months.

Hughes scores

Mark Hughes scored his first league goal in more than two months to keep Barcelona on top of the Spanish league with a 1-0 win in Cadiz yesterday. The Welsh international's goal came in the 49th minute with a header.

Algeria step in

Algiers (AFP) - Algeria has agreed to replace Zambia as hosts for the 1988 African Nations football finals.

Robson set for long injury spell

Bryan Robson faces a two-month absence after a hamstring tear which is casting increasing doubts over his career (Steve Bates writes). The Manchester United and England captain broke down 49 minutes into Saturday's game with Norwich after stretching for a tackle which damaged the hamstring for the sixth time in 14 months. Immediate reports that the £2m midfielder would be back within four weeks were dispelled yesterday when the dejected player said: "At first the manager thought the injury was at the bottom of the muscle but it's more towards the top area which has given me so much trouble before." While Robson was reluctant to place a time-limit on his recovery, the seriousness of the set-back indicates a much longer rehabilitation period and is a blow for Alex Ferguson, the manager, who is eager to improve United's league position. Since his arrival, Ferguson has tried to eradicate the hamstring injuries which plagued the club under his predecessor, Ron Atkinson. Robson's suggests that the player has a worsening problem. "It's a nightmare for us but I won't be panicked into buying a replacement for Robson," Ferguson said yesterday. "My big problem at the moment is to get Kevin Moran fit for the game against Newcastle because my two other central halves are still struggling."

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring the word 'Kinn' and other illegible text.